Committee members present: Maureen Redmond Scura, Chair, Liza Poinier, Clint Cogswell

Committee member absent: Pam Wicks

Other Board members present: Jim Richards, Tom Croteau, Jennifer Patterson

Administrators: Terri Forsten, Superintendent, Donna Palley, Assistant Superintendent

Other staff: Tom Sica, CHS Principal, Jeff Fullam, Art Facilitator, and Erica Deitch, Art Teacher, Gabe Cohen, Music Facilitator, Jim Corkum, CHS Assistant Principal, Chris Herr, Social Studies Facilitator, Jeremy Duclos, Social Studies Teacher, Phil Clarner, Science Teacher, Tim Beaulieu, Math Teacher, Tom Crumrine, CHS Assistant Principal, Tammy Hatcher, Facilitator for Mathematics, Matt Skoby, Kaileen Chilauskus, English Teachers, Lise Bofinger, Facilitator of Science, Lyn Vinskus, Science Coach

Maureen Redmond Scura opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley introduced the conversation about new course proposals for Concord High School. Ms. Palley introduced CHS Principal Tom Sica, who facilitated the conversation.

Jeff Fullam, Art Facilitator, and Erika Dietsch, Art Teacher, shared their proposal for a new Art course, Sculpture. A thorough description of the course was offered. Sculpture is a one-semester, ½-credit art elective in which students will explore the space around them and make literal and symbolic connections with the three-dimensional world. Students will manipulate and utilize a variety of materials to develop aesthetically pleasing three-dimensional forms. Form, volume and space relationships will be explored as students create functional, non-functional and conceptual sculptures. Students will be involved in planning, revising and reflecting processes to develop their work and convey meaning. In this class, students will explore a variety of different construction techniques including assemblage, relief, kinetic and figure sculptures, and will also look at how a range of artists have used sculpture as a means of communication and expression.

Several Board members spoke in support of the Art program and this new course.

Gabe Cohen, Music Facilitator, offered background information on a new Music course proposal, Contemporary Performance. The course is a one-semester, ½-credit music elective for 10th, 11th and 12th graders that offers the opportunity to investigate current performance techniques in contemporary music. Students will explore music in an ensemble setting on both their own primary instrument and on new instruments explored in this class. Students will be exposed to beginning piano performance and
accompaniment, jazz improvisation, world percussion techniques, beginning recording, and performance in a contemporary music setting.

Several Board members offered positive feedback, asked questions about the course, and spoke in support of this new course proposal.

Jim Corkum, CHS Assistant Principal with responsibilities to the Social Studies department, Chris Herr, Social Studies Facilitator and Jeremy Duclos, Social Studies Teacher who has been teaching the new course – Social Movements: Power to the People – presented on its implementation, which is in its first semester. Through the lenses of power, resistance and identity, this course introduces American social movements from the 1950s to present. Drawing from history, sociology and politics, students examine a range of social movements including civil rights and Black Power, feminist movements, gay and lesbian liberation and LGBTQ movements, and Black Lives Matter. Through student-centered inquiry and discussion, students examine how social activism across the political spectrum has changed since the 20th century. Mr. Duclos reviewed several projects that students have completed and their learning processes so far this semester. Students were challenged to work independently and in small groups. Jim Richards asked whether Mr. Duclos had considered the impact of social media on social movements today, and Mr. Duclos described how this issue has come up for discussion.

Phil Clarner, Science Teacher, and Tim Beaulieu, Math Teacher, presented their model for teaching Algebra II and Physics in an integrated manner, with an emphasis on project-based learning. The combined courses create a STEM-infused course focused on helping students make connections between Algebra II and Physics and see their relevance in the world around them. They described several projects which encouraged students to work together to design, build, test and prove their work. Mr. Clarner and Mr. Beaulieu have designed an interesting pathway for students to gain skills in Physics and Algebra II. Students are earning a credit in Math and a credit in Science through the STEM course.

Board members asked several questions and positively reinforced the idea and the implementation of this STEM course. The presented videos and demonstrations were well done and reinforced the engaging aspects of this course. Tom Crumrine, CHS Assistant Principal with responsibilities in Science and Mathematics, noted that this course has been positively received. Tom Sica, CHS Principal, introduced Tammy Hatcher, Facilitator for Mathematics, who has strongly supported this effort.

Matt Skoby and Kaileen Chilauskas, CHS English Teachers, spoke to two new courses at CHS: Sports Literature and The Write Stuff. Mr. Skoby noted that Sports Literature has been well-received at CHS. This course is being offered once per semester this year, with enrollments of 30 students in each class. He shared several written projects created by students. Mr. Skoby shared the essential question of the course: “Do sports divide us or bring us together?” Students use the Socratic Seminar and create a blog.

Ms. Chilauskas spoke about The Write Stuff, which 30 students are taking. She noted that there is very little overlap in students who are taking the Sports Literature course and those taking The Write Stuff, meaning that almost 100 freshmen and sophomores are taking an
English elective. The students create four beautiful anthologies over the course of the semester. They are responsible for the written content, layout and artwork for the anthology they create as a team. Student writers developed their skills, confidence and interest in writing now and in the future. Ms. Chilauskas had presented this course at the New England Association of English Teachers Conference.

Board members offered strong, positive comments regarding the English elective courses.

Tom Crumrine, CHS Assistant Principal, Lise Bofinger, Facilitator of Science, and Lyn Vinskus, Science Coach and Project Manager for NGSS, then discussed the Next Gen Science course. Ms. Vinskus has been part of the leadership team as CHS has adopted a new pathway for Science studies using Next Generation Science Standards. She offered an outline of course content and student skills in this new course. She described several projects which have reinforced student learning. Ms. Bofinger described several field-based trips to energy sites. The Science department created an opportunity for students to visit several energy generation sites: bio mass plant, wind generation facility, Wheelabrator (trash to energy), solar plant, hydro plant, etc. They divided the students into several groups so that students from every class went to each of the energy sites and brought information to the rest of their class. Students had to design an energy plant based on the one which they visited.

Ms. Vinskus shared student surveys related to the Next Gen Science and shared teacher input about student engagement and the course content overall. Ms. Vinskus spoke about her role as the Science Coach, which is funded by the Title IIA Grant, to support teaching the new course. The CHS Science department inspired more hands-on, project-based learning. Ms. Bofinger said that Science Teachers are dedicated to the new teaching content and process. Mr. Crumrine discussed how the new Science standards are reviewed, considered and at the forefront as the Next Gen courses continue to be developed.

The team shared several Science pathways from the new Next Gen Science courses:

**Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry:** NGS I, with summer work; or NGS I plus Chemistry I (1 semester)

**AP Biology:** NGS I and II and Biology I (1 semester) and Chemistry I (1 semester), suggested

**AP Environmental Studies:** NGS I and II; Science of Sustainability (1 semester) suggested but not required

**AP Physics:** NGS I and Algebra II (can be concurrent); Advanced Algebra 2 or Advanced Pre-Calculus recommended

**AP Psychology:** NGS I and II and Human Psychology (1 semester)

Board members asked several questions related to the new Science processes, their content and student performance in this new course. It was noted that students can take
several science courses simultaneously so that Advanced Placement courses can be taken as early as sophomore year in some cases.

Ms. Bofinger addressed the proposal for a new Science course for 2019-2020: Science of Sustainability. The course description addresses a number of questions, such as “Have you ever wondered what the future of our planet will be like? Does recycling really make a difference? Will my children be skiing in New Hampshire? What kinds of things can I do in my life to make a difference? In the future will electricity still be the major form of energy in our homes?” This full semester class (.5 credit) for freshmen and sophomores will provide students with an overview of environmental Science concepts, with an emphasis on human impact and possible solutions and paths forward. This new course would offer an elective for younger high school students. Ms. Bofinger noted that students will be challenged to make connections between global issues in sustainability and their applications in Concord.

Ms. Redmond Scura asked for a motion to recommend the new courses to the full Board for approval.

The Committee voted 3-0 to recommend the three new courses to the full Board for approval for 2019-2020: Sculpture, Contemporary Performance and Science of Sustainability (motioned by Liza Poinier, seconded by Mr. Cogswell).

The Committee voted 3-0 to adjourn (motioned by Ms. Poinier, seconded by Mr. Cogswell).

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Redmond Scura, Chair
Terri Forsten, Recorder