Date: December 7, 2016

Committee members present: Jennifer Patterson, Chair; Maureen Redmond-Scura; Alana Kimball; Tom Croteau

Administration: Superintendent Terri Forsten, Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley

Jennifer Patterson chaired this meeting. Tom Croteau was appointed to serve on the Committee for this meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the enrollment report for Fall 2016. Superintendent Forsten presented the report. The report provides detailed information about the enrollment across the District, identifying 10-year trends in school population.

District Enrollment Trends

Ten-year enrollment trends were presented, showing a continuing small decline that is consistent with enrollment trends across New Hampshire. Enrollment has declined by over 600 students, a 12% decline, since 2007.

10-year enrollment trends show that enrollment continues to decline, but is consistent with the decline across the state. Concord has 48 fewer students in K-12 this year compared to last, or a 1% drop in enrollment. K-12 enrollment this year is 4,535.

Elementary Schools

Three of the elementary schools (Beaver Meadow, Christa McAuliffe and Mill Brook) had increases in enrollment since last year, while two schools (Abbot-Downing and Broken Ground) had decreases. Overall, the elementary schools have 50 fewer students this year. Over a ten-year period, there has been an 11% decrease (226 students) at the elementary level.

Elementary class sizes range from 17-27, with most in the 17-24 range. Average class size across the elementary schools is 20.

There are elementary students in Concord attending schools outside their neighborhood. Students who require intensive support to learn English may attend a program at Broken Ground School (BGS). Parents may request special permission for their child to attend a school outside their neighborhood. Previously, there was an expectation that parents request special permission annually. This year there is a new procedure allowing students to remain in their special permission placement without annual requests. The number of students requesting special permission is small. Superintendent Forsten will provide this information to the Committee.
Rundlett Middle School

Rundlett Middle School’s (RMS) current enrollment is 988, a slight increase (26 students, or 3%) over last year. Over the last ten years, enrollment at RMS has decreased by 9%, or 99 students. Additional detailed information about RMS’ enrollment will be presented in the near future.

Concord High School

Enrollment at Concord High School (CHS) is currently 1,659. The represents a 10% decline (190 students) in enrollment over the last ten years. There are 31 fewer students at CHS this year than last.

The Enrollment Report includes detailed information about enrollment in courses by department. Ms. Patterson noted that historically the Board has looked for comparatively smaller class sizes in core freshman and other required courses. The average class size for English 9 is 21, with a range of 18-26; for English 10 and 11, the average class size is 23. Average class size in Geography and Cultures is 22, with a range of 16-28. Algebra 1 classes have an average class size of 24, with a range of 21-29.

Advanced Geometry classes each have 30 or 31 students. Biology classes have an average class size of 24, with a range of 23-26. It was noted that there is an attempt to keep class size in Biology and other lab classes at 24. Ms. Patterson asked whether there is a cap on lab classes. The goal is to try to keep numbers at 24. In Biology, however, the labs are different than in chemistry.

Both AP Physics and AP American History have been opened up to students in grade 10. Reports from teachers indicate that the younger students are doing well. The total enrollment in science classes is 1,639, which speaks to engaging curriculum offerings and interested students.

The student enrollment in digital education courses (Mobile Apps, Coding and Student HelpDesk) is 76 for the first semester.

There are 529 students participating in music programs. This is an enthusiastic student group that forms close communities. It is noted that enrollments in music at RMS are also very high, with 63% of students this year in one of the performing arts groups. There is a strong music education program in the District.

Special education caseloads are noted in the report, with a range of caseload numbers based on the nature of the specialized programs offered.

There are 1,314 freshmen and sophomores in study halls during the first semester. Some study halls are more focused to provide additional supports for students. Overall, the administration would like to see students in not more than one study hall during a given day.

Physical Education classes are well-subscribed. A large number of students take second-year world language courses, with 888 in total enrolled in the World Language Department.
The report lists eight classes with fewer than 15 students enrolled, and three courses with enrollment over 30 (all three have 31 students).

CHS’ Course of Study is available on the school’s website (chs.sau8.org). The program contains detailed information about course offerings, with descriptions.

Committee members asked about the number of Concord students taking classes through the public charter school, Virtual Learning Academy (VLACs). They also asked to review the enrollment for courses added in the last three years. Superintendent Forsten will provide that information.

**Concord Regional Technical Center Enrollment**

Overall, enrollment in CRTC programs this year is 593, an increase of 48 students from last year. 236 students from CHS take classes in the Technical Center, and 357 students come from the eight sending school districts. Sending school districts sent an additional 22 students this year; CHS sent 26 more. The new Stagecraft course has 16 students enrolled, 8 from Concord.

**Students Services Enrollment**

Special education enrollment was reported for a four-year period by school and level. Across the District, K-12, 15%, or 709 students, are identified with an educational disability.

There are currently 346 English learners, K-12. At the elementary level, the highest enrollments of English learners are at Mill Brook School (MBS) (65 students representing 19% of the school population) and BGS (52 students representing 13% of the student population). There are 57 English learners in middle school, and 129 at CHS.

Committee members requested information about the number of students placed out of district. This information will be detailed during the budget presentation.

The Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Ms. Kimball).

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Patterson, Chair
Donna Palley, Recorder