Concord School District Board of Education  
**Instructional Committee**  
September 11, 2017

**Committee members present:** Alana Kimball, Chair, Pam Wicks, Jennifer Patterson, Maureen Redmond-Scura  
**Other Board members present:** Tom Croteau, Jim Richards, Barb Higgins  
**Others:** Superintendent Terri Forsten, Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley, Rundlett Middle School Assistant Principal Heather Barker, Elementary Math Coordinator Chantel DeNapoli, ADS Kindergarten Teacher Stacy Macri, Business Administrator Jack Dunn

Chairperson Alana Kimball opened the Instructional Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Superintendent Forsten reviewed the agenda: potential full-day kindergarten programming; Rundlett Middle School (RMS) schedule changes; and the RMS math progression.

**Potential full-day kindergarten curriculum, programs and schedules**

Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley reviewed recent work on full-day kindergarten curriculum, programs and schedules. She described a sample schedule for a full day, comparing it to a sample schedule from the present part-day schedule. Ms. Palley described structures including the morning meeting, literacy and math blocks, and opportunities for activity-based learning. Increased time for movement activities, for read-alouds, and for activity-based learning was described.

Superintendent Forsten described transportation, facility and financial considerations for full-day kindergarten. She noted that, barring any completely unanticipated set of circumstances, there should be adequate capacity to absorb additional riders on the elementary buses at ADS, BMS, and CMS. It is still to be determined whether MBS/BGS would need an additional bus in the morning or afternoon. At this point, it is predicted that the District would save about $75,000 in transportation costs by moving to full-day kindergarten, given that mid-day buses would be eliminated.

Each of the 15 kindergarten teachers anticipated for a full-day program would require a daily 45-minute planning period. During this time, students would have some type of ‘specials’ experience. Superintendent Forsten and Ms. Palley discussed one option that involved hiring a small team of part-time itinerant teachers who would travel to each of the four schools, providing STEAM, creative play, social and academic experiences.

Superintendent Forsten indicated that there would be enough space for full-day kindergarten classes at the elementary schools, though some shifting of rooms will be necessary at MBS, where the youngest students (kindergarten and first graders) can only use classroom on the first floor of the building because of fire codes.
Superintendent Forsten described changes at the state level that will result in additional funds for kindergarten. Under the new law, NH will provide an additional $1,100 per full-day kindergarten student starting in FY19. Additional funding generated by Keno may be available in FY20. The District would anticipate $330,000 in additional revenue for FY19 if the District implemented full-day kindergarten programs, based on an estimated 300 students.

RMS Schedule Changes

Changes have been made to the RMS 2017-2018 schedule. The purpose of the changes was threefold: to provide teachers and students with opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching and learning, to initiate a new advisory program, and to provide daily blocks of time for students to receive differentiated instruction – both academic enrichment and support, as needed. Assistant Principal Heather Barker described specifics of the schedule, which changed for grades 6 and 7. Students have a weekly block for advisory, which includes a focus on the PBIS/PRIDE topics that have been developed by teacher teams. They also have daily 30-minute blocks for enrichment and/or support.

RMS Mathematics Progression

Ms. Palley reviewed the Math Course Progression options at RMS, explaining that about 50% of students complete Algebra by the end of grade 8. The Math curriculum standards have become more robust. To address that challenge, students moving toward Algebra in grade 8 will be provided with approximately one hour per week of additional instructional time focused on pre-algebra concepts. Students in need of support with 6th or 7th grade math concepts will also receive approximately one hour per week of additional instruction in these areas.

Jim Richards asked about advanced geometry in grade 8. The District does not currently offer a geometry class at RMS, but students are able to take this course at CHS, as appropriate.

Ms. Barker answered a question from Ms. Patterson about communicating with parents about these challenges, noting that the information provided to the Board had been sent home to parents last spring. Committee members asked for updates as the year goes on, and expressed support for these changes.

Ms. Patterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alana Kimball, Chair
Terri Forsten, Recorder