Concord School District
Instructional Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Instructional
Date: January 14, 2009
Committee Members Present: Clint Cogswell, Chair, Kevin Fleming, Chris Casko, Jennifer Patterson
Other Board Members Present: Laura Bonk, Kass Ardinger
Administration: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, George Rogers, Susan Noyes, Chris Demers, Heather Barker, Deb McNeish, Mark Denoncour, Roger Brooks

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Cogswell opened the meeting, explaining that its purpose was to hear about the school improvement plans from the principals of schools that have been designated “Schools in Need of Improvement” under the federal law “No Child Left Behind.” Superintendent Rath provided a brief overview of the federal law as well as specific terminology used in the law.

Rath explained that while all of our schools when considered as a whole would make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), specific subgroups of students in some schools did not make AYP in certain areas. The subgroups are: educational disabled, economically disadvantaged, Black/African-American, and English Language Learners. The schools were Beaver Meadow, Kimball, Walker, Rumford and Rundlett Middle School. One or more of the subgroups listed above didn’t make AYP in either reading or math or both.

The principals of the schools informed the committee of their specific improvement plans. The plans provide for targeted and supplemental instruction in the reading and math areas where students have performed poorly on the state assessments tests (NECAP). This instruction is provided during the school day, as well as before and after school and during the summer. These programs have been successful in engaging students and are combined with a hot breakfast before school or a snack after school. Schools have also made a special effort to involve parents through a series of Family Nights where transportation, babysitting and supper have been provided. The activities are geared to teach parents ways to practice their child’s reading and math skills at home. Participation in Family Nights has exceeded principals’ expectations.

In addition, the principals reported on how schools have found increased time for grade-level teachers to collaborate on specific instructional strategies as well as how Smart Board technology has allowed teachers to visually present math for students with limited English skills or language disabilities. This technology, when combined with “Clickers,” allows the teachers to receive instant feedback on which students do not understand the material that was just presented.
It was also noted that Beaver Meadow is now a Title I targeted school. With its Title I funds, Beaver Meadow has started a pre-school program. Currently, Beaver Meadow has three sessions of preschool which, again, exceeded their expectation for enrollment.

The committee thanked the administrators for their informative presentation. No action was taken.

The meeting adjoined at 6:30 p.m.

Clint Cogswell, Chair
Robert B. Prohl, Recorder

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