Concord School District Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Instructional

Date: October 20, 2008

Committee Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Chair, Chris Casko, Martin Honigberg, Jennifer Patterson

Other Board Members Present: Laura Bonk, Betty Hoadley

Administration: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Gene Connolly, Steve Mello

PE Staff: Kelly Noel, Eric Brown, Ham Munnell

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

Review of Concord High School physical education requirements. Concord High School Principal Gene Connolly and Director of Physical Education and Sport Steve Mello reviewed the student graduation requirement of 1.5 PE credits. Mello and Connolly reviewed the course sequences, as well as the course offerings during a student’s four years of high school. It was also noted that the state requirement is 1 credit and that student loads for PE teachers have decreased from the district upper limits of the guidelines (30 students per class) to the mid-twenties. Last year the model for physical education classes was changed from students being enrolled in a general P.E. class which was divided up into activities by the teacher once the class began, to students being able to sign up for a particular class in yoga, dance, racquet sports, etc. By all accounts, this change has been greeted with enthusiasm by the students.

Connolly and Mello reviewed the committee athletic certificate (CAC), which is available for juniors and seniors at a quarter-credit each year. Mello informed the committee that 15–20 students are currently taking the CAC and that he is responsible for approving students’ CAC proposals. Mello feels that the CAC provides an option for students who in the past had to repeat PE classes because of failure. Students participating in an interscholastic sport at CHS can earn $\frac{1}{4}$ credit of PE each of their junior and senior years.

The committee discussed whether additional PE credits should be available for students participating in interscholastic sports. Ham Munnell, who opposes allowing athletes to earn more PE credits through interscholastic sports, provided the committee with a convincing and passionate argument for the importance of PE courses for all students.

Co-curricular athletic stipends. The second concern brought before the committee was a review of the co-curricular athletic stipends that are listed in Appendix D in the CEA CBA. Over the years, a number of co-curricular positions have not been filled due to lack of student enrollment; the funds were then used for other positions where a need existed. The committee acknowledged the need for flexibility, but stated that the Board needs to be informed of such changes. Additionally, when additional positions are added and stipends are determined by the administration, those stipends need to be negotiated with the CEA when its collective bargaining agreement is being renegotiated. The committee also suggested that the coaching/stipend grid be
reorganized by each sport/seasons, and that the administration identify the district cost by participant by sport. No action was taken.

The committee adjoined at 6:40 p.m.

Kass Ardinger, Chair
Robert B. Prohl, Recorder

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