Concord School District  
**Instructional Committee Minutes**

**School Board Committee:** Instructional  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2009  
**Committee Members Present:** Chris Casko, Jennifer Patterson (acting chair in the absence of Clint Cogswell), Kevin Fleming  
**Other Board Member(s) Present:** Eric Williams, Jack Dunn, Kass Ardinger, Laura Bonk  
**Administration:** Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Gene Connolly, Adam Osburn  
**Teachers:** Lise Bofinger, Tom Crumrine, Linda Banks

Acting Chairperson Patterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was to discuss the proposed 2010 – 2011 school year calendar, the high school schedule, the proposed addition of two new Concord High School ELL classes and the high school course competencies work.

1. The first agenda item was the proposed 2010-11 school year calendar. Superintendent Rath informed the Board that the key issue of whether school will start before or after Labor Day depends on whether school will be held on Election Day (November 2, 2010), and whether Columbus Day will continue to be taken as a school holiday. After considerable discussion, the Committee concluded that for next year, past practice of having school on Election Day should continue, taking Columbus Day as a holiday and starting school before Labor Day. Thus, the first day of school for staff will be August 30 and for students the first day will be August 31. In addition, Christmas vacation will begin on December 23, the February vacation will begin on February 28 and the April vacation will begin on April 25th. The last day of school will be June 15, assuming no snow days are added.

   **The Committee voted 3–0 (motioned by Dr. Fleming, seconded by Chris Casko) to recommend to the full Board to start the 2010 school year before Labor Day, keeping Columbus Day as a holiday and with school in session on Election Day.**

2. The second issue was a report by Adam Osburn on the work of a high school committee examining the school schedule. The issue is that the current 8-block schedule gives students multiple study halls, as the average courseload for students is 5.5 to 6 courses. One way to solve the multiple study hall problem is to shorten the length of the student day and use the remaining time for teacher collaboration. Principal Connolly reviewed past changes in the schedule. Superintendent Rath wanted the Instructional Committee to be aware of the high school committee’s work, as these are important
issues. After discussion, the Committee indicated that this issue may be studied; however, the Committee expects to be kept informed with opportunities to discuss any possible changes at future meetings.

No votes were taken.

3. The third issue was a request by the HS administration to offer two new courses: ELL Science as Inquiry and ELL Civics. The high school administration and ELL teacher Linda Banks explained that the numbers of ELL students have increased significantly (the current census is over 100). Some of our ELL students are refugees from countries where they have received little formal education, which has made it very difficult for them to succeed in core content classes. The administration explained that these newly proposed ELL courses would be modeled after the ELL math course, where a high school-certified math teacher teaches an ELL class of between 15-18 students and uses ELL instructional methodologies to teach basic math concepts. ELL students who take this course would be placed in regular math classes the following year, or sooner if they progress quickly.

The Committee voted 3–0 (motioned by Mr. Casko and seconded by Dr. Fleming) to recommend approval to the full Board to add the following courses: ELL Science as Inquiry and ELL Civics, subject to funding in the 2010–2011 budget.

4. The fourth issue was a brief report by science teacher Tom Crumrine on the high school’s work on courses competencies and the issues that have been raised, especially in relation to how students are graded. Currently, students are graded on a numerical scale by comparison to other students, as opposed to being assessed in relationship to whether they have mastered the competencies. Mr. Crumrine reported that these questions are being raised throughout the state, as all high schools have had to develop course competencies. At this point, no changes are being proposed. Additional information will be reported at a later meeting. No votes were taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Jennifer Patterson, Acting Chair
Rob Prohl, Recorder