Board Committee: Instructional

Date: December 18, 2013

Committee members present: Jennifer Patterson, Chair, Clint Cogswell, Tom Croteau, Kass Ardinger (appointed)

Board member-elect present: Rusty Cofrin

Administrators present: Chris Rath, Superintendent; Donna Palley, Assistant Superintendent; CHS Principal Gene Connolly; CHS Assistant Principals Steve Rothenberg, Tom Crumrine and Steve Rothenberg; Math curriculum facilitator Tamara Hatcher

Jennifer Patterson convened the Committee at 5:30 and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley introduced Principal Gene Connolly, who introduced the members of the CHS team who will be presenting various course changes for CHS. Ms. Palley briefed the committee on the new minimum standards being considered by the State Board of Education, including the reduction of the number of business courses required to be offered from 5 courses to 3 courses in the areas of Business Essentials, Business Technology Applications and Personal Finance.

New Course – Business Department

CHS Assistant Principal Steve Rothenberg provided an overview of a one-semester course proposed to be added to the Business Department: E-Commerce. Students will use case studies and readings to understand successful E-Commerce models, develop a business plan for an E-Commerce undertaking, and develop the technical skills to create an E-Commerce site. There would not be pre-requisites for this course although it is targeted for upperclassmen.

In addition, the proposal is to eliminate Keyboarding from the Program of Studies as well as limit enrollment in the Computer Literacy course to students.

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Donna Palley reviewed the focus of the state minimum standards that strongly support the integration of technology into all areas of the curriculum, as well as provide the opportunity for students to take at least one semester of a more in-depth technology course at CHS. By July 2015, students will need to either maintain a digital portfolio or take a one-semester ICT class to graduate from CHS.
CHS Assistant Principal Tom Crumrine invited the committee to view a short video about the value of coding as a “life skill” for students today. Mr. Crumrine outlined the course proposal for *Coding: An Exploration of Computer Science*. Programming will be a unit within the course. The language likely to be introduced in the Coding course will be Java. There are many resources online available for teaching this class.

CHS Assistant Principal and CRTC Director Steve Rothenberg described a course, *Mobile Device Application “Mobile Apps” Development*, proposed for 2015-2016 to build on the courses proposed for next year. This course will cover how to develop applications for mobile platforms, specifically Apple iOS and Google Android devices.

Mr. Rothenberg also described a new course, *It’s a Digital Life*, being proposed for 2014-2015. This course will involve students’ exploring, applying, and mastering a variety of (Web 2.0) tools and technologies to meet their own needs as a student as well as enhance their process of becoming career- and college-ready. Students will complete a digital portfolio aligned to competencies.

Ms. Patterson noted that the introduction of these courses does require that the School Board complete its work on electronic communication policies, as this course will engage students in the use of these tools at home as well as at school.

**Mathematics**

The high school is proposing two math courses designed to enable students to be better prepared for college math. Math Curriculum Facilitator Tammy Hatcher presented statistics that indicate that about 35% of our students going to NHTI need to take a remedial math class.

The first course being proposed, *Senior Math*, is designed to help students who are not able to pass the college math screening test such as Accuplacer review Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry concepts and skills in order to be better prepared to take college math at the community college level.

The second course being proposed, *Topics in Applied College Math – TAC Math*, is a full-year, 3-credit college-level survey math course. At NHTI this is a required math course for a variety of programs. This course will be eligible for Running Start credit. This course is designed for students who have completed Algebra 1 and Geometry and Algebra 2 will be recommended.

Ms. Palley noted that approximately 30 New Hampshire high schools are participating, and approximately 30 colleges and universities accept TAC Math for transfer credit.

**Mr. Cogswell made the motion to recommend that the full Board approve the addition of these courses to the Concord High School Program of Studies for registration for 2014-2015; the Committee passed the motion 4-0.**

**English**

Dr. Ronna Cadarette explained the English Department’s proposal to revise the title and competencies for the course *Television Production* to *Digital Production*, in which
students will study digital recording and editing of image and sound as well as script writing and production techniques. This is a senior English course.

**Calendar**

Superintendent Rath explained that the calendar approved by the Board in December had one too many days for teachers in that the two parent conference times constitute a work day for teachers. This original calendar had 184 days for teachers. The CEA agreement is for 183 days for teachers.

The Committee approved, 4-0, the motion to recommend to the full Board to make the correction on the 2014-2015 calendar to 177 student days instead of 178 student days.

This revised calendar is still a pilot for 2014-2015; eliminates 5 early release days and adds three professional days during the school year for professional development.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Patterson, *Chair*

Chris Rath, *Recorder*