School Board Committee: Instructional
Date: March 9, 2009
Committee Members Present: Clint Cogswell, Chair, Chris Casko
Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger and Megan DeVorsey (appointed to fill in for absent committee members Kevin Fleming and Jennifer Patterson)
Administration: Rob Prohl, Gene Connolly, Steve Rothenberg, Jeff Siegel
Other: Jane Cogswell - Diploma Academy Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairperson Cogswell opened the meeting, explaining that its purpose was to review the district’s grant proposal to the NH Dept of Education to continue the Diploma Academy. Jeff Siegel, Steve Rothenberg, and Clint Cogswell reviewed the district’s grant proposal, which is for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years for a total cost of $665,000. Currently, the district is operating the Diploma Academy on Department of Education grant funds that will expire on June 30, 2009.

Mr. Rothenberg and Mr. Cogswell reviewed the profile of the students in the Diploma Academy and how the program components are selected for each student. They reviewed the Diploma Academy components: core academic classes including CRTD courses with embedded math, science, English and social studies curriculum, Plato-computer credit course recovery, JAG, correspondence courses and GED. The core academic classes are the most popular.

In addition, they noted that the number of students who will be reported as dropped out in 2007-2008 will be approximately 55 (reduced from the 75 reported in 2006-2007). The 2008-2009 number is projected to be even lower.

The new grant proposal adds the following components:
1. pre-GED class with a focus on intensive reading and math skills
2. ELO (extended learning opportunities) using the 21st-Century school model
3. summer school for entering 9th graders at risk

The JAG program will not continue.
Rothenberg explained that the funding of this project is contained in the Governor’s budget, but at this time it is not clear when the funds will be available. If grant funds are not available for the start of the 2009-2010 school year, the district will need to identify how to continue the program until the grant funds are awarded. Rothenberg noted that the current vocational billing system ($1,400 per course: 75% state, 25% local district) may be used in the future as a revenue source, but these revenue funds may be subtracted from the grant award.

The committee voted 4–0 on a motion by Chris Casko (seconded by Ms. DeVorsey) to support the administration’s submission of the Diploma Academy grant for school years 2009-2011.

The meeting adjoined at 5:30 p.m.

Clint Cogswell, Chair
Robert Prohl, Recorder

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