School Board Committee: Instructional

Date: April 12, 2010

Committee Members Present: Eric Williams, Clint Cogswell, Chris Casko, Jennifer Patterson (arrived late)

Other Board Member(s) Present: Kass Ardinger, Jack Dunn, Kevin Fleming, Laura Bonk

Administration: Superintendent Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Steve Mello

Staff: Donna Palley

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Williams appointed Laura Bonk to sit on the committee, as Patterson was not present. The committee discussed six agenda items:

1. A request for the RMS Nordic Ski team to be funded as an interscholastic team.

   Director of Physical Education and Sport Steve Mello reported that the team is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The estimated costs for 2010-11 are: coach (the maximum stipend is $2,210), entry fees ($500) and transportation ($2,058), and that these costs are in the District’s 2010-11 budget.

   The committee voted 4–0 to approve the RMS Nordic Ski team as an interscholastic sport. (motion by Clint Cogswell, second by Chris Casko). Laura Bonk removed herself from the committee, as Jennifer Patterson had arrived.

2. Adequate Yearly Progress

   Superintendent Rath reported how District students performed on the most recent NECAP state testing. She explained how the State determines the index target (proficiency), which increased this year, will increase again in 2012-13 and be at 100% in 2014-15, which subgroups did not make AYP and which schools are “schools in need of improvement” and the sanctions that apply with this designation.

   No action was taken.

3. AIMSweb

   Donna Palley reported on the District’s Aimsweb project. Aimsweb is a benchmarking and monitoring system based on direct and frequent continuous assessment of student learning. An early screening system, it assists in identifying students who are not performing at grade level. All students are screened; those who are identified are given an intervention to improve performance. Aimsweb the provides for regular monitoring of performance based on the intervention. The goal is to ensure that all students are making progress. The District
has purchased only the reading software, with a focus on monitoring student performance in the primary grades.

A question was raised on what AIMSweb actually stands for. Donna will research and inform the committee. No action was taken


Assistant Superintendent Rob Prohl presented the committee with a proposed policy that authorizes the Superintendent to annually review and update the District’s Special Education Policy and Procedural Manual. Mr. Prohl informed the committee that the proposed manual, which is over 100 pages, is a revision to the District’s existing special education plan originally adopted by a school board committee in 1990 and which has been updated by Mr. Prohl to meet DOE regulations. This special education plan is required each year as the District submits its annual request for federal special education funds.

The committee requested that the manual be made available on the District’s website, along with links to the DOE webpage that contains the NH Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities and the NH Special Education Procedural Safeguards. Laura Bonk pointed out that the vast majority of information in the District’s special education manual is based on DOE regulations. In addition, the committee requested that Mr. Prohl identify any information in the revised or proposed manual that is a new addition to the District’s current special education plan.

The Instructional Committee requested that this issue be put on the next Instructional Committee agenda so as to allow time for the committee to review the manual. Following this review, the proposed policy will have its first reading before the Board.

5. World Language Teachers

Superintendent Rath presented a request to add a .2 FTE Spanish and .2 FTE Latin teacher based on projected enrollments at RMS for World Language. Rath informed the committee that funding for this request will come from the Superintendent’s contingency, although the .5FTE K position that is in the 10-11 budget may not be needed.

The committee voted 4–0 to recommend to the full Board that it approve the request to add a .4 world language position (motion by Mr. Cogswell, seconded by Mr. Casko).

6. School Naming Policy

Superintendent Rath reviewed Policy #735, School Naming Policy, and responded to questions. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Williams, Chair
Rob Prohl, Recorder