Concord School District
Instructional Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Instructional
Date: April 13, 2009
Committee Members Present: Clint Cogswell, Chairperson, Chris Casko, Kevin Fleming, Jennifer Patterson
Other Board Members Present: Laura Bonk, Kass Ardinger, Eric Williams
Administration: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Gene Connelly, George Rogers, Steve Mello
Other: Matt Fisk - CHS social studies facilitator

Mr. Cogswell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The first issue before the committee was the proposal by the high school administration to purchase 60 additional textbooks for the new civics course from the Instructional Trust. Gene Connelly and Matt Fisk reviewed with the committee that the civics course is new this year, as it is a new graduation requirement for the class of 2010. The Board approved the purchase of 190 new civics textbooks last year. An additional 60 textbooks are needed because not all juniors were able to take this course this year, some juniors who took the course failed and will have to retake the course next year and there are students who have moved into the district who will need to take the course. When the Board approved the purchase of 190 textbooks last year, it was anticipated that additional textbooks would need to be purchased this year.

The committee voted unanimously (4-0; on a motion by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Dr. Fleming) to recommend to the full Board that it approve spending up to $4,302 from the Instructional Trust to purchase 60 additional civic textbooks.

The second issue was discussion of the proposed RMS Intramural and Athletic Philosophy. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Mello reviewed the proposal, as well as the current number of interscholastic sport teams at RMS. Superintendent Rath distributed a fall 2008 memorandum that provided a breakout of the number of teams, grade level participants, coaches and stipends, schedule and travel expenses.

Chris Casko pointed out that the title Athletic Director in the proposal needs to read Director of Physical Education and Sport; the correction was made.
The committee noted that this is a proposed philosophy and that specifics of how this philosophy is implemented are governed by Policy #690.1 Athletic Philosophy and Guidelines. It was noted that this policy may require amendment, as the committee recommends that all proposals for new sports be approved by the Board.

The committee agreed with the proposed philosophy of maximum participation and a balanced set of activities with skill development over competition. The committee recommended the following changes and additions to the proposed philosophy:

1. Reword the last sentence in the second paragraph to read “except in the case of basketball, the school district will not offer conflicting sports in the same season as the City program or jeopardize the school program”
2. Add language that students are encouraged to be in good academic standing
3. Reference School Board Policy #609.1
4. Add an appendix that references standards from the National Middle School Association

No action was taken on this agenda item. The committee requested that a revised proposed philosophy be submitted for committee approval.

The third issue was to identify the preferred process for review of the Board’s current policy on class size guidelines. After discussion, Clint Cogswell proposed that Eric Williams lead a subcommittee to review the research on class size. The Superintendent will provide the subcommittee with the research. Mr. Williams accepted the role as chair of the research subcommittee and Mr. Cogswell, Mr. Casko, and Ms. Patterson volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Mr. Williams suggested that the committee summarize the research and then present options for the Instructional Committee and the Board to consider. How these options might impact current class size guidelines will need to be explored and explained. In addition, the subcommittee will review the history and implementation of the current class size guideline policy. Mr. Williams will develop a summary “research form” that subcommittee members can use as they read and review the research.

The Instructional committee agreed to proceed as discussed above. No vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Clint Cogswell, Chair
Rob Prohl, Recorder