Committee: Instructional

Date: July 23, 2012

Board members present: Jennifer Patterson, Chair; Chris Casko, Clint Cogswell, Barbara Higgins

Other Board member(s): Kass Ardinger

Staff: Superintendent Chris Rath, CHS Principal Gene Connolly, CHS Curriculum Facilitators Tamara Hatcher and Math, and Lise Bofinger for Science

Jennifer Patterson opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

1. Common Core Standards

Superintendent Rath provided a brief overview of the Common Core State Standards for Literacy and Math that have been adopted by 45 states, including New Hampshire. The standards have been developed to provide a clear and rigorous set of expectations for students preparing for careers and college. The philosophy of the standards is that literacy is a shared responsibility of many teachers. There are literacy standards for K-5, for English Language Arts 6–12 and for Science, Social Studies/History and Technical subjects 6–12. The Literacy standards emphasize preparing students to read increasingly more complex texts at each grade level and increasing the focus on argument and informative writing rather than personal narrative.

The standards for math are designed to narrow and focus the math curriculum; build strong foundation skills; balance skill with a deep understanding of mathematical concepts; and application of math skills to real world situations. There are both standards for specific topics such as Number and Operations with Fractions, Statistics and Probability, and standards for mathematical practices (e.g. persevere solving problems).

Superintendent Rath presented a brief introduction of the computerized adaptive assessment system, Smarter Balanced Assessment, which will be in place in 2014-2015. Smarter Balanced Assessment will also offer optional formative and interim assessments.

The Committee reviewed the state plan to transition to the Common Core and new assessment as well as the activities that have taken place in Concord to begin this transition.

2. Instructional Trust

The Superintendent reviewed the purpose and history of the Instructional Trust Fund. The Committee considered requests from the CHS Math department for a set of iPads
to be used with Algebra I classes, and from the CHS Science department for new Geology texts, new Astronomy texts, and Boardwork software for the new AP Environmental Science class and Earth Science, for a total of $29,704. The Science department also requested a set of iPads, but the administration was not recommending the use of Instructional Trust funds at this time for the Science iPads since they were not proposed in lieu of new texts.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend to the full School Board the withdrawal of up to $29,704 for Math and Science materials.

There will be a public hearing on this withdrawal from the Instructional Trust reserve account at 7:00 p.m. on August 6. The August School Board meeting will follow, and the full Board can then take action on this recommendation at the August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Patterson, Chair
Chris Rath, Recorder