Concord School District  
Board of Education  
Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Instructional  
Date: July 28, 2010  
Committee Members Present: Eric Williams, Chris Casko, Jennifer Patterson  
Committee Member Absent: Clint Cogswell  
Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Laura Bonk  
Administration: Superintendent Chris Rath, Rob Prohl  
Staff: Adam Osburn, Assistant Principal of CHS and chair of District Social Studies Committee and teachers Becky Jones and Jeanne Torpey

Chairman Eric Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The committee discussed three agenda items:

Social Studies Committee

The first agenda item was a report from the Social Studies Committee chaired by Adam Osburn on work to align the social studies curriculum in all schools for grades 3-5.

Using the state standards and a UBD design (Understanding by Design, which identifies essential questions and enduring understandings), the committee created curriculum maps in social studies for grades 3–5. This is part of the District’s mandate that all students have access to and are taught the District curriculum. These curriculum maps were designed to constitute 80% of the annual social studies curriculum and will be taught by elementary classroom teachers. The remaining 20% of the social studies curriculum is left to the teacher’s discretion including current events. In addition, common assessments measuring knowledge of state standards are being developed by the committee. All students in all schools will take these social studies assessments.

Mr. Osburn reviewed the Social Studies Committee’s request to purchase social studies texts and materials for grades 4–5. In grade 4, the committee is recommending the purchase of a new text called New Hampshire is our Home. In addition, the committee is recommending purchasing The Struggle for Independence, instructional materials that engage students in role-playing/simulations. The committee also reported that the NH Bar Association will purchase We the People series for all students at no cost to the CSD.

Chairperson Williams appointed Ms. Ardinger to the Instructional Committee for the upcoming vote as Clint Cogswell was absent.

The Committee voted 4 – 0 to (motioned by Jennifer Patterson, seconded by Chris Casko) to recommend to the full Board the purchase of $14,615 of instructional social studies materials with a reasonable shipping cost added. The funding for these materials will come from the instructional trust.
District in Need of Improvement

The second agenda item was a PowerPoint report by Superintendent Rath on the District’s work this year as a District In Need of Improvement. Superintendent’s Rath PowerPoint will be available of the District web page under News & Projects/District Report Card.

Superintendent Rath explained and reviewed the status of the District’s schools under the No Child Left Behind law. Because some of our subgroups of students are not proficient in reading and math, our schools have not made Annual Yearly Progress and thus have been designated Schools in Need of Improvement (SINI). This year the District was designated as a District in Need of Improvement and was required to submit a two-year improvement plan to the NH Department of Education. (SINI schools also have to submit improvement plans to NHDOE.)

This past school year the District assembled a team to do a “root cause analysis” and answer the question, “Why does Concord get these results on the NECAP reading and math assessments?” The District team identified three major root causes:

1. we don’t fully and consistently implement the District curriculum
2. we don’t coordinate instruction for students receiving interventions
3. we don’t use our student assessment data to identify students needing interventions and monitor their performance.

At an administrative retreat this summer the following goals were set:

1. Increase the number of students tested each year who are highly proficient in reading and math by at least 10%
2. Decrease the number of students tested each year who are substantially below proficient in reading and math by at least 10%
3. 50% of all students identified during benchmarking and who receive interventions will reach their target using AIMSweb progress monitoring by June 2011.

Superintendent Rath explained that the Central Office will assume a stronger role in monitoring the performance of District schools on these goals. The Instructional Committee requested that it receive reports at least annually on progress of District schools on meeting these goals.

Research

The third agenda item was a request by the Superintendent for the Instructional Committee to read two research articles that identify factors of high performing schools (student achievement). The committee will discuss these articles at a subsequent meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Williams, Chair
Rob Prohl, Recorder