Concord School District
Instructional Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Instructional Committee

Date: August 22, 2011

Committee members present: Eric Williams, Chair; Jennifer Patterson, Clint Cogswell, Chris Casko

Other Board members present: Kass Ardinger and Jack Dunn

School staff: CHS Principal Gene Connolly, Asst. Principal Steve Rothenberg, Asst. Principal Adam Osburn, teachers Mary Wilke (BGS) and Stacy Boyajian (CHS)

1. Request for instructional materials for 5th grade Geography
   BGS teacher Mary Wilke and Social Studies Committee chair Adam Osburn presented a request on behalf of the Social Studies Committee for sets of books on regions of the United States to be used in 5th grade Social Studies classes throughout the district. Mary Wilke described how BGS teachers piloted the materials during the 2010-2011 school year.

   Each set costs $201.32. The materials will be purchased through Gibson’s Book Store in Concord, so there will be no shipping charge.

   The committee voted 4–0 to approve the request for $3,422.44 for 17 sets of books.

2. Proposal for U.S. History class for fall 2012
   CHS Principal Gene Connolly, CHS teacher Stacy Boyajian and CHS Assistant Principal Adam Osburn presented the high school’s proposal to discontinue offering the lower-level US History class Land of Promise and the lower-level Economics class American Business beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. The Social Studies department is committed to increasing their knowledge and skill with differentiated instruction in order to meet the needs of the range of learners who would be in the US History class. Mr. Connolly described the supports that can be available to students who may be struggling with the more rigorous curriculum. Mr. Osburn and Ms. Boyajian described the value of implementing a wider range of alternative methods for students to demonstrate their learning of US History.

   The Committee voted 4–0 to approve the offering of one level of US History and Economics beginning in the Fall of 2012.
3. ELL Civics
Principal Connolly and Ms. Boyajian described the difficulties they have experienced with the ELL Civics class that the Board approved last year. The students who take ELL Civics class have different needs. Older students may be prepared to take the ELL Civics class. Younger students, however, might be better served with ELL Geography. The Committee expressed support for giving the teacher of the ELL class flexibility to implement the appropriate curriculum for the students in the class. The high school staff will return to the Committee with a more accurate description of the ELL class this fall so it can be incorporated into the 2012-2013 course catalogue.

4. Earth Science
Principal Connolly described the need the high school has to offer two semester courses, or 1 credit, of Earth Science. This is a new state requirement and the high school needs to comply with this requirement to be fully approved by the Department of Education. The high school staff will return to the Instructional Committee this fall with course descriptions and competencies.

5. CRTC Courses
CHS Assistant Principal and CRTC Director Steve Rothenberg reviewed a number of potential proposals for CRTC programming. He will return to the Committee with a proposal for Criminal Justice this fall. The intent would be to offer two independent Criminal Justice courses so students could begin the Criminal Justice program in either their junior or senior year.

Mr. Rothenberg reviewed a number of additional possibilities, including a partnership with NHTI to offer both college credit- and high school credit-based courses. The NHTI staff has indicated interest. Some potential classes discussed were Agriculture, Forestry, and Landscaping. He also described a plan to assemble a community group to explore other options for future programs through CRTC.

6. Calendar Survey
The Committee is interested in surveying parents about the possibility of discontinuing April vacation. It was decided to include additional questions in the survey including the future of February break, the starting date for school and the possibility of a year-round school calendar.

7. High School Schedule and 24 Credits
Principal Connolly reported that the high school maintained its 8-period schedule for 2011-2012. A committee at the high school is looking for ways to include collaboration time into the schedule. Mr. Connolly reported that approximately 50% of high school students currently earn 24 or more credits before they graduate.
8. Superintendent Rath explained she was working on starting and ending times for schools for the fall of 2012. One option is to reduce the length of the high school day to 7 periods and use the 8th period for teacher collaboration. More information will be brought to the committee in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Williams, Chair
Chris Rath, Recorder