

**Curriculum and Philosophy Subcommittee Minutes
April 20, 2005
SAU 16 Conference Room**

Present:

- **Administration:**

Superintendent Arthur Hanson, Principals Gary Heald and Tom O'Malley, Assistant Principals Kathy Newcomb, John LeSage, Bill Perkins, Curriculum Coordinator Peter Stackhouse and staff member Karen Whitmore

- **School Board Voting Members:**

Roy Morrisette, Chair – Robin Scott, Sally Oxnard, Lucy Cushman

- **Other Board Members in Attendance:**

Chris Magnusson, Robin Scott, Patty Lovejoy

- **Public Visitors:**

Kathy Bailey Seacoast Newspapers and John Hazekamp

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10 PM

EHS Course Offerings/Class Sizes

A report was given by Principal Heald and Assistant Principal Kathy Newcomb relative to the course selections for the fall semester and the approximate class sizes which have been at an average of 24 students (14-lowest) per class. (Mr. O'Malley informed the committee that this is not the case at the Middle School where class sizes can till hover around 30 students per class. This is something that the administrative team continues to work on ways to reduce those numbers.) The Assistant Principals will now be assigning staff to those classes. The number of student conflicts has been minimal and the scheduling is at 92% level for student assignments.

**Student Schedules CMS &
Course Offerings in Foreign Language Art & Music &
Math Levels CMS**

Mr. O'Malley reported that Parent Placement Forms allowing for parental input have been sent out and that a majority of them have been returned. Placement for Teams will be worked on in the coming weeks. Special Education transitions for 6/7 and 7/8 for the 05/06 school year are also being assigned at this time.

Mr. O'Malley, Assistant Principals LeSage and Perkins and Mr. Stackhouse presented the committee with the schedule for the School Year 2005/2006 showing how it would differ from the 2004/2005 school year. There will be a reading teacher on each of the 7th Grade Teams (requiring additional staffing which was budgeted for) and a Critical Reading Strategies piece will be offered the entire 1st semester at all grade levels. This will reflect the changes being made for the 6th Grade Unified Arts Block and the Off-Team offerings for grades 7 and 8. Concern was raised

relative to the impact this would have for 7th graders being able to take art if they are doing Band/Chorus and a Foreign Language. Administration pointed out that Art would be offered after school through enrichment programs and they would also be getting more art time as 6th graders in the future with the change. Computer Labs will not be used but instead computers will go to the classroom and be integrated into the curriculum.

Question by Chris Magnusson asked about math levels for 6/7 and 8th grade. It was stated that at the 6th grade level there are two levels however teams can breakdown the groups into different learning groups based on the needs of the students. It was also mentioned that training continues on targeting special areas via scores and grouping needs. At the 7th and 8th grade we have three levels and that includes Pre-Algebra Grade 7 and Algebra Grade 8.

AYP Plan

Mr. Stackhouse reviewed the plan for a School in Need of Improvement that is required by the State.

Curriculum Cycle Explanation

Mr. Stackhouse gave an update on the curriculum areas under review and the schedule for upcoming reviews. This will be reviewed in detail at the Spring SAU 16 meeting by Assistant Superintendent Gerry Frew.

No votes were taken during the course of the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Sally Oxnard and Seconded by Lucy Cushman and voted in the affirmative by the voting members.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 PM SAU Office

Respectfully submitted

Roy E Morrisette, Chair
Curriculum and Philosophy Committee