

Exeter Region Cooperative Curriculum and Philosophy Committee Meeting
November 11, 2008 – 6:00 PM
SAU 16 Offices

Attendees:

School Board: Kate Segal, Townley Chisholm, Barbara RigordaEva, Patty Lovejoy, and Ray Trueman

Administration/Staff: Vic Sokul, Tom O'Malley, Bill Perkins, Cindy Friberger, and Mark Foley

Kate Segal was elected as committee chair.

1. Parent Conferences – CMS. Tom O'Malley and Bill Perkins reported that each team at CMS met on the November in-service day and devised a plan to hold parent teacher conferences. Each team has sent out letters to the parents giving them the opportunity to request a conference. The letters were attached to the student's first quarter report cards. Tom & Bill shared with the committee copies of the letters. Requests are coming in. One team has received 40 requests. Teams are now in the process of scheduling and holding conferences.
2. SAU Goal – Selecting topics/programs for survey purposes. Committee began the preliminary discussions about selecting a topic/program at each school for further review/evaluation. Both principals will be giving this further thought and bringing back other suggestions to the committee. Topics suggestions brought forward at the meeting were: CMS – 6th Grade Math program, MathScapes program, NWEA, and athletic offerings. EHS – Follow students after graduation, writing/math labs, writing skills – boys vs. girls, Process re management decisions and teach evaluation process. Discussion to be continued at next month's meeting.
3. Process of earning high school credit – discussion of pros and cons of awarding high school credit for high school level courses taken at CMS – Algebra I and world languages. If credit were to be awarded it would involve changing our current policy. This topic will be brought back for further discussion at next month's committee meeting.
4. High School Competencies and high school assessments – Victor and Cindy brought the committee up to date with where EHS is on the competencies project. Competencies have been completed for about 110 courses – some electives are not yet finished. Each department is working on the assessments to be used to determine if competencies have been met. Work is being done on process to remediate when a student doesn't meet a competency during the course. Goal is to have competencies, assessment process, and infrastructure for reporting on competencies completed by June. There was discussion on grades vs. competencies. Victor and Cindy will report on progress throughout the school year.

5. CMS – School in Need of Improvement – Tom O’Malley reviewed our SINI status. Tom reviewed processes that have been put in place to enhance student learning for students:
 - a. Implementing Professional Learning Communities
 - b. Implemented common planning time for math teachers
 - c. Increased math lab teacher from a .6 FTE to a full FTE. Used Title II money to accomplish. This allows the math lab to operate for the full school day. Every student identified as needing additional help now goes to math lab.
 - d. Teacher prepped students on strategies for taking the NECAP exams.
 - e. Purchased Turning Points software that is being used in math classes. Each student has a clicker – all students respond to a question posed by the teacher at the same time (A/B/C). The teacher/class has immediate access to the data. Lets the teacher know instantly if the class/individual students are grasping concepts. Cost of program \$5000 was paid for with SINI funds.
 - f. CMS is reviewing effectiveness of MathScapes program.
 - g. CMS is brainstorming ways to get more time for math – belief that 50/min 5days/week is not enough.
 - h. All math teachers are using “Math Mates” worksheets that focus on basic skills.
6. Review of programs and resources that reduce at-risk behaviors – tabled until next month
7. Request for EHS revised schedules NEASC accreditation process – Victor Sokul and Mark Foley (EHS Science teacher and co-chair of reaccreditation self-study process) presented a plan that would implement two delayed openings each month (back-to-back on block days). The time would be devoted to having all teachers working on the self-study portion of the reaccreditation process. They both felt that with all the demands already place on teachers (competencies and assessments and tracking of competencies) that in order for the self study process to be completed the way it should be that teachers need to be given time to work together. The plan presented spanned the time period of January to June of 2009 and continued into the fall of 2009. **Motion by Patty Lovejoy and seconded by Kate Segal to recommend to the full Board that the schedule of delayed openings for January to June 2009 be approved. Motion passed 3-1.**

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM