

Educational Policy Committee

Minutes

April 5, 2022

7:00 - 800pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

Members: Gwen Doak, Wayne Kinney, **Dorothy “Dee” Robinson**, Debbie Smith

Members Absent: Mark Prentiss

Other Members Present:

Staff: Chris Elkington, Laura Columbia, Dan Higgins

Other Staff Present:

1. Called Meeting to Order at 7:08 pm - Robinson
2. Review [approved minutes](#) from the last meeting - Robinson
 - a. No changes or concerns
3. Updates:
 - a. Strategic Planning - Columbia
 - b. Remote Learning - Columbia
 - i. 21-22
 - ii. 22-23
 1. Western Maine Assist Program - Columbia
 - a. Currently there are 29 students in Western Maine Remote Academy from RSU 9. We are credited (won't need to use further ESSER funds) with 20 slots for next year and we will also purchase slots for remote tutoring using ESSER 3 funds.
 - c. Land for Sale [adjacent to Cascade Brook School](#) - Elkington
 - i. Superintendent was approached about the land and did some inquiries. There are some concerns about the potential for CBS' Field to be partially on this land; it is a landlocked property, with some wet/marshy lands. It could be used to extend the trails, increase exercise space, and have value as an outdoor classroom for science (biology and ecology) use of the marshland.

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1. Our land needs to be officially surveyed and reviewed.
 2. This would have to go before the Board and then if approved before the voters, with balance forward \$ possibly being used. Lots of info needs to be brought back to Operations and finance committees.
4. Textbook Notifications - Columbia
- a. [Agentes Secretors y el Mural de Picasso](#), Mira Canion
 - b. [Mananaland](#), Pam Munoz
 - i. Committee approves both, moving to the full board for notification.
 - ii. Clarity on adjusting the form to allow for clearer information for the committee to review future books will be made by Director Columbia.
5. Dental Programs in RSU 9 Schools - Columbia
- a. [Tooth Protectors](#)
 - b. Next steps?
 - i. With committee approval moving forward with CCHS as a spring pilot site and a full implementation in the fall.
 - ii. Committee supports moving forward.
 - iii. Moving forward there are no costs to the district.
6. Community School Grant - Columbia/Elkington
- a. Purpose
 - b. Questions/Discussion
 - i. It is an opportunity for CCHS (it is farther away from the supports closer to our other schools) to have a more supportive role in regards to the use and making available County Services for students and families closer to their homes.
 - ii. There could be possible pushback from the community regarding the school's role if we look like we are interfering with family needs.
 - iii. We must ensure that we include community voices and have their support moving forward.
 - c. Next Steps?
 - i. Move forward to the Board for CCHS to be designated as a Community School.
 - ii. There are no costs for this designation.
7. NEASC - Elkington

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- a. What is it?
 - i. It is an Accreditation Process for high schools to measure them against standards throughout New England. It can also include middle and elementary schools.
 - b. Why not here?
 - i. Has not been accredited for years, most likely due to the cost and the time and effort that a school must go through.
 - c. Concerns?
 - i. The question was brought up that not having accreditation could reduce chances of our students going to elite colleges.
 - d. Next steps?
 - i. We will investigate the college question that has come up.
 - ii. Updated information will be brought up at a future meeting.
8. Policy Reviews - Elkington/Columbia
- a. Narcan Review
 - i. [RSU 9 Policies/Procedures](#)
 - 1. The committee needs more info and Director Columbia will bring updated policies to the next policy including the current policy and the updated MSMA policy.
 - b. Brought back to committee
 - i. Draft [JLC](#): Wellness Policy
 - 1. Review of previous discussion and font size. It was agreed to add the suggested general language below around the importance of providing time for students to eat their lunch and relax. Add to pg. 3
 - a. *"Promotes good eating and digestive practices: sitting down while eating meals, eating after movement or recess breaks when able, sufficient time to consume meals and time for student-to-student socialization."*
 - b. Move forward to the full Board with the above edits.
 - c. Second Committee Review
 - i. Draft [GBIA](#): Staff Participation in Political Activities
 - 1. Add for clarity: it is an understanding that a balance sharing of both sides is a crucial part of understanding the democratic process (something like that) on pg. 1, add on pg 2, top of the page when on school grounds...
 - 2. With those changes, we will bring forward to a future Board Mtg.

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3. [Political Speech](#) FAQs - would go in staff handbooks, not policy.
 - ii. Draft [IMB](#): Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues - add to next meeting's agenda
9. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Harold Alfond Center for Workforce Advancement Supplemental Funding - Allen
 - b. June
 - i. RSU 9 Certification Handbook
 - ii. Grant Review, Approval Process, and Admin Procedures
 - iii. Update on School Board Self-Evaluation Tool
 - iv. State Assessment/Test Data Review
 - v. 2022-2023 Policy Review Plan
 1. Cross-reference quick review
 - vi. Draft [IMB](#): Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues - add to next meeting's agenda