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4 **CONWAY SCHOOL BOARD**
5 **MEETING MINUTES**
6 **February 8, 2010**
7

8 A meeting of the Conway School Board was held on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the
9 Loynd Auditorium at the Kennett High School.
10

11 **Members present:** Chairperson Sheryl Kovalik, Assistant Chair Kelley Murphy, Dick Klement, Syndi
12 White, Janine McLauchlan, Rick Breton and Randy Davison were present. Carl Nelson and Assistant
13 Superintendent Bob Gadomski were also present.
14

15 Signing of Manifests (6:20 p.m.)
16

17 **1. Call to Order (6:30 p.m.)**
18

19 **2. Salute to the Flag**
20

21 **3. Approve Minutes (11-23-09 and 1-25-10)**
22

23 **Motion:** by Rick, seconded by Janine, to review and approve both sets of minutes.
24 Minutes of 11-23-09 - **7-0-0**
25 Minutes of 01-25-10 - **6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Kelley)**
26

27 **4. Personnel**
28

29 **A. Consider Regular Personnel Changes**
30

31 **1. Approval of Request for Child Care Leave by Lara Preece**

32 **Motion:** by Kelley, seconded by Janine, to review, discuss, and vote on
33 item. **7-0-0**
34

35 **5. Presentation of School Programs/FYI ITEMS**
36

37 **A. KHS Student Representative** – Chris King reported that the hockey team is still
38 undefeated. The basketball teams are having great seasons; the boys just lost two
39 seniors due to injury. The ski team is due to compete this week. The DECA Marketing
40 Club will head south in March for the state meet competition. Recently an anti-bullying
41 and harassment club was formed to spread awareness. This week is Spirit Week for
42 Winter Carnival. Friday is the pep rally, street hockey, etc. and Saturday is the dance.
43 It's a fun week at Kennett. He stated the general climate in the halls is upbeat.
44

45 **B. Principals' and Directors' Reports** (first meeting of the month) – Written reports were
46 provided and will be posted on the SAU website.
47

48 **6. Public Comments – None.**
49

50 **7. Old Business**
51

52 **A. Co-curricular Policy IGDJ**
53

54 **Sheryl** stated that the Board inadvertently assigned a task to a standing committee, Co-
55 Curricular Committee that was originally created for a general purpose as defined by the
56 CEA Contract. They were not fully equipped to handle the task of fulfilling the Board's
57 request to revise the co-curricular policy. As a result the Co-Curricular Committee has
58 asked the Board to form a different version of the committee with an expanded

59 membership base and to leave the current policy in place until the expanded committee
60 can come back to the Board with some specific recommendations for the policy
61 pertaining to all the co-curricular activities. Sheryl spoke for the entire Board saying
62 they are all very disappointed that this has taken much longer than they had planned.
63 She referred to Carl and Kelley on how they want to proceed and what kind of time line
64 can be expected.

65
66 **Kelley** stated that the Co-Curricular Committee is a very small committee; it was
67 comprised of Carl, Kelley, Kerry Brady and Kevin Richard. The Co-Curricular
68 Committee was also faced with beginning the year with the CEA contract not being set
69 and the committee shrunk in size considerably. There were two open seats going into
70 the year that remained unfulfilled. She thinks perhaps they were a bit naive when they
71 took on the task and that the original task when the policy was sent to the Co-Curricular
72 Committee had about five adjustments the Policy Committee wanted the Co-Curricular
73 Committee to look at which had to do with bringing the Co-Curricular Policy up to speed
74 with existing policy in that it had the drug and alcohol policy submitted inside it which
75 had since been updated and the Co-Curricular Policy had not been updated. The Co-
76 Curricular Committee thought that was reasonable enough to do within their group.
77 They shared their findings and then went back to the Policy Committee and in their
78 haste; they tried to get it on the table so the students would be held accountable to an
79 updated policy versus and outdated policy. This was when they were met with some
80 opposition because members of the School Board expected much more from the Co-
81 Curricular Committee than the Co-Curricular Committee ever thought their focus was.
82 They did go back with the recommendations of the contract for co-curricular activities to
83 hold those students to a higher standard. The deeper they dug into it, the more issues
84 came up. They rushed the first version of the policy and now they are coming back
85 already looking for clarification on a policy that is already in place. Kelley stated the Co-
86 Curricular Committee is willing to take the charge at hand but under realistic guidelines
87 but they want more people's input and they want to do it the right way.
88

89 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Kelley, to form a subcommittee to the Co-
90 Curricular Committee to assist with this policy.
91

92 **Rick** asked if there was going to be a time limit on addressing the problem of off-
93 campus stuff and holding the students to a higher standard, there is nothing in here
94 about that. When can the Board expect this to be ready? **Randy** proposes that the
95 School Board has all intentions of addressing off-campus behavior. We have done a
96 great job in upping the standards at Kennett in the core classes and holding the
97 students accountable in the academic component. Off-campus behavior hasn't been
98 addressed and as a School Board, we need to address it. He is concerned that the Co-
99 Curricular Committee has sent this back to the Board. As a School Board we should
100 formulate our own committee and that could be an adjunct to the Co-Curricular
101 Committee. He has a concern with the letter that the Board received back from the Co-
102 Curricular Committee regarding what they consider teams and clubs and co-curricular.
103 This list needs to be revisited. He believes that many clubs have been left off of this list.
104 It should be co-curricular; it shouldn't just be addressed to sports clubs. **Syndi** spoke to
105 the comment that there are not enough people on the Co-Curricular Committee; the
106 Policy Committee only has four members and they are able to dig into really difficult
107 issues and come to the Board with policies for the Board to vote on. She feels the
108 Board was very clear what they were looking for a few months ago in terms of the
109 policy, the contact, and when they wanted it done. In a previous meeting it was
110 expected but not there, they were very clear again when they wanted it done and it was
111 not done. Now they are saying they cannot do it and we want a new committee. She
112 finds it unacceptable. **Janine** read the wording from the CEA contract: Co-curricular
113 activities and positions are established...decisions regarding establishment and
114 placement... She stated it seems to her that the language in the CEA contract is
115 specific to that group establishing the committees in placement of advisors of those
116 activities, not the actual policy that governs those activities. She thinks there might be a
117 misunderstanding of what the CEA wording is meant to be. It just means that that group

118 establishes the actual activities and who advised those activities. **Sheryl** stated that
119 this was her mistake. They did not look at what that Co-Curricular Committee was
120 originally established for. So, yes, Janine is correct in her understanding of what the
121 wording is. The task assigned was not appropriate given the Co-Curricular Committee's
122 purpose.
123

124 **Amendment to Motion:** by Dick, seconded by Rick, that instead of forming a
125 subcommittee to the Co-Curricular Committee, that this task
126 be transferred to the Policy Committee for action by April 1.
127 **6 in favor, 1 opposed (Kelley), 0 abstained.**
128 **Amendment to Motion passed.**
129

130 **Randy** stated he wanted to cut to the chase on this and referred everyone to page three
131 of the policy where it says eligibility related to drug use. Third line the word "function",
132 he looked it up in terms of legal terms and what other districts were doing, if this
133 wording were in there "any conduct in violation of the law either on or off campus is a
134 violation of this policy", that will hold water. **Sheryl** asked Randy to email this to her for
135 the Policy Committee's consideration. **Randy** also noted that he has a problem with the
136 participation definition as stated in Kerry Brady's letter. He proposes this "the purpose
137 is not to use co-curricular activities for rewards and punishments but to help ensure that
138 students take the time they need to study." He doesn't believe that students who are
139 failing core classes that they need to graduate, should be spending time practicing or
140 sitting on a bench if they are ineligible for a sport; they should be home studying. **Sheryl**
141 stated this will go to the Policy Committee for consideration. **Sheryl** has no problem
142 with the Policy Committee running the process of making sure this is executed. She
143 does think the Policy Committee is going to need to take into consideration advice and
144 counsel from a variety of other individuals. **Syndi** stated we should put this on the
145 agenda for the Policy Committee and ask others to come if interested. **Sheryl** stated
146 we need to make specific invitations. **Syndi** also thinks the Policy Committee should do
147 the contract. **Sheryl** stated they can do this from a control point of view but they do
148 need input from others as well. **Randy** stated that all clubs in vocational should be
149 listed as co-curricular as well. **Kelley** stated that anything that had academic bearing to
150 it was removed from the co-curricular list. These aren't necessarily students you want
151 to remove from those opportunities because it is an extension of their classroom time.
152

153 **Dick moved the question.**
154

155 **Vote on the motion:** to give this task to the Policy Committee for output by April 1st.
156 **6 in favor, 1 opposed (Kelley), 0 abstained**
157

158 8. Instructional Issues

159 **Motion:** by Kelley, seconded by Rick, to review all four items as a group, but
160 discuss and vote on each item individually. **7-0-0**
161

162 **A. Consider Approval of Overnight Field Trip – Key Club – 7-0-0**
163

164 **B. Consider Second Reading/Adoption of Policy IKEC-Pupil Progression Plan– KHS**
165

166 **Randy** noted that in the Program of Studies under course requirements for ninth grade,
167 the language that appears in the progression plan is that students who have not passed
168 the reading efficiency test are expected to take reading in ninth grade. This language is
169 missing from the Program of Studies and should be added.
170

171 **Randy** noted on page nine of the Program of Studies under graduation requirements,
172 he would like to have deleted (because you need one credit, either in World Culture,
173 World Language, or Geography) including 0.5 credit of World History or equivalent, and
174 0.5 credit of a world language, world cultures, or equivalents. **Sheryl** reviewed that she
175
176

177 made notes that this needs clarity because it is not 100% clear what the message is.
178 We want students to have world culture or world history credits and we are explaining
179 what qualifies as candidates. It needs to be clear what the candidate courses are but
180 that we are not requiring world history. **Neal** noted this was how it has been for years.
181 He suggested a change to “you need to earn one credit in history and it can either be
182 world cultures, world history, or geography”. **Sheryl** stated this would be very clear. On
183 the last page of the program of studies, the same thing happens. Neal will address this.
184
185

186 **Dick** noted on page seven, under grading, can we change this to harmonize with the
187 Program of Studies. Are we giving out A+? Neal stated he cannot change the Policy
188 but he can change the Program of Studies. Discussion was held Sheryl will amend the
189 policy to eliminate the category of A+. The policy will be corrected to reflect what we
190 actually give out for grades.
191

192 **Motion:** by Dick, seconded by Kelley, to amend IKEC to eliminate the category of
193 A+. **7-0-0**
194

195 Neal will revise the Program of Studies accordingly.
196

197 **Randy** thinks sometimes we don't do enough for students who are doing their best and
198 getting good grades. Regarding mid-term and final assessments, for many schools in
199 the state and the country, if a student has earned an A average for both quarters or for
200 the final, he/she is exempt from the actual assessment because he/she has actually
201 proven him/herself and worked hard for the first and second quarter. When this was
202 discussed at the Joint Area Board, they were not in favor of this.
203

204 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Janine, to add language into the policy that if a
205 students hold an A average for the first and second quarter, they are
206 exempt from the mid-year exam. If they hold an A average for the year,
207 they are exempt from the final.
208
209

210 **Dick** thinks that for senior year, second semester, he has no problem saying you don't
211 have to take finals. Prior to that, he does have a problem with this because there is not
212 enough demonstrated performance earlier on.
213

214 **Syndi** asked when final grades for the class is calculated, the mid-terms and finals are
215 a percentage of that grade so if this was done, you are totally readjusting the way that
216 grade is calculated. **Neal** stated you would have to give the students and A for the final
217 or something like that. **Randy** stated most schools give the average. **Neal** reviewed
218 what was discussed at the Joint Board. One of the comments that was made was as the
219 students are getting ready for post secondary college, what they are going to find is that
220 at the college level sometimes you are only taking two tests. The pressure of the mid-
221 term and the final, and the ability to know how to study and to be able to demonstrate
222 the semester or a year's worth of work is what the college level requires. The feeling at
223 the Joint Area Board is that we don't do our students any help if we remove that from
224 the requirement. That said, he thinks that what Dick has said is a nice compromise. If a
225 student has worked hard and obviously taken their mid-term and finals throughout the
226 first three years, and they have demonstrated their ability to master their first semester
227 of the year, then he thinks this would be a nice perk. **Janine** would just want to make
228 sure that the final is just a summary of what has already been tested and nothing new.
229 Neal stated the final is a summary of what has been assessed. **Randy** asked Chris
230 King how he thought the students would receive this. **Chris** stated this is really cool
231 and would be great. A negative part of this is, for instance, he did really well in Spanish
232 but did not test well. Someone may also not do well in the course but test well. **Sheryl**
233 stated she is not opposed to the compromise but she is concerned that is very possible
234 for students who are good at fast studying to do really well throughout a semester but
235 not necessarily to have retained the information. Mid-terms and finals are a way to

236 have a final drilling in of the content itself.

237
238 **Amendment to Motion:** by Dick, seconded by Randy, to amend the motion so that
239 those seniors who have 3 ½ years of a consecutive 4.0
240 average be exempt from taking second semester mid-term
241 and final and be given an A for the course.

242
243 **Vote on Amendment:** 2 in favor (Dick, Rick), 5 opposed (Sheryl, Kelley, Janine,
244 Syndi, Randy), 0 abstained.

245
246 **Neal** thinks that if a senior had an A average in a particular course they were taking
247 going into senior year second semester, then the final exam would be waived for that
248 particular course. If they had a B in math, for example, they would still be taking the
249 mid-term or final in math. For any course where they have mastered that material
250 throughout the year at an A level, it is his opinion that that student has earned a
251 privilege of some sort.

252
253 **Laurie** explained how, in some of the Career Tech courses, the finals are based on
254 projects where they develop a project from the beginning to end and the exam is a
255 formal business presentation, for example. These kids still have to do the project which
256 is a couple of weeks long; they cannot be exempt from the presentation because they
257 have an A all along.

258
259 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Janine, that all seniors who, in a core class, hold
260 an A average going into the final exam would be exempt from the final
261 exam, and to add language to the policy that allows us to create if in their
262 core academic programs they reach the second semester with an A
263 average, they have the option to not take their final exam.

264
265 Due the complexity of how to define a core class, and the fact that we have electives
266 that have to be taken for graduation, **Sheryl** suggested that no amendment be made to
267 the policy at this time but that Neal cogitate on this and figure out if he can figure out a
268 way that if the right wording existed, the Board could add this back into the policy and
269 then make a proposal to the Board.

270
271 **Motion withdrawn by Randy and Janine.**

272
273
274 **Rick** discussed page seven, progress reports and interim reports. Why do report cards
275 get mailed and progress reports do not? He knows that some parents don't see them.
276 **Kelley** stated in light of ed line, wouldn't all of this be irrelevant. **Neal** stated that last
277 semester the progress reports were mailed because of the same concern. This last
278 period they mailed every report card with a guidance newsletter and a password to ed
279 line for each student.

280
281 **Motion:** by Sheryl, seconded by Rick, that all administrators ensure that interim
282 reports and report cards be provided to all students and parents/guardians
283 four times a year. **7-0-0**

284
285 **Syndi** stated that ed line could be inconsistent, she thinks they should be mailed.
286 **Kelley** stated she does not think it is our job to manipulate how these get to the
287 parents/guardians. **Rick** stated some people don't have a computer and can't get ed
288 line. He thinks the policy needs to state that they will be issued via ed line or mailed, or
289 both. **Dick** stated he thinks that it should state that interim marking period reports will be
290 provided to all parents/guardians.

291
292 "It is the student's responsibility to give these reports to parents." should be stricken. It
293 should be added that report cards are issued to or provided to parents/guardians four
294 times a year.

295 **Sheryl** stated if ed line is a communication method for those who have computers, then
296 it needs to be done right and this is an administrative issue.
297

298 **Vote on second reading of policy, as amended, 7-0-0**
299

300
301 **C. Consider Approval of 2010-11 KHS Program of Studies**
302

303 **Randy** asked if Neal could place the language for mid-term and final assessments into
304 the appropriate areas. Neal reviewed how this was done on Page 21.
305

306 **Sheryl** stated that because the principal's letter is addressed to students and parents,
307 the body of the letter should be changed to be consistent with the voice. In the third
308 paragraph of this letter, there is a statement made about reviewing requirements with
309 guidance...this should be guidance and parents. Sheryl reviewed the credit migration
310 and it is a light reduction in total credits. **Neal** stated part of the problem is there have
311 been changes over the years that haven't been cleaned up. This was due to some
312 housekeeping that hadn't been done.
313

314 **Dick** stated at the Joint Board there was a discussion of the 24.5 credits. A motion to
315 decrease the credits to 24 failed. A motion to increase the credits to 25 failed. He still
316 thinks having an even number of credits per semester is better.
317

318 **Motion:** by dick, seconded by Randy, that 24.5 credits per semester be increased
319 to 25 credits per semester, and the additional half credit should be found
320 in the elective area.
321

322 **Neal** stated he would like 25. He thinks that it is not asking students a
323 great deal to get to that. He looked at other high schools in the general
324 vicinity and Kingwood is 26, Moultonborough Academy is 23.5, Berlin is
325 26. He sees Randy's logic he could live with it either way. Sheryl thinks
326 there is room without burdening the student to go to 25 credits. Kelley
327 likes to round up, 25 is good. Dick could handle 25. Janine, Rick, Syndi,
328 and Randy are okay with 25.
329

330 **Vote on Motion: 7-0-0**
331

332 **Randy** noted that the alternative instruction description in the Program of Studies needs
333 to be aligned with the policy.
334

335 **Randy** noted page 98, social studies, he would like language to change. The second
336 paragraph states that taking and passing courses in world cultures, US history,
337 economics, and civics is required by the State of NH to meet graduation requirements.
338 He would like to strike that the Conway School Board requires that all students pass
339 civics. This is a state of NH requirement. The same changed should be applied to page
340 100 as well. Neal agreed.
341

342 **Dick** noted on page 58, English 154, please check and change ESL to ESOL.
343

344 **Dick** noted on page 72, Guitar III. Both are half credit courses. It is his understanding
345 that Guitar III could be taken in sophomore year. If a child can take Guitar III over and
346 over, what are we teaching. **Neal** responded that if music is a passion for a child, at the
347 third level, their skills are much more advanced. Discussion was held regarding what
348 was taught and learned in this class. It was explained that in Guitar III, the same stuff is
349 not taught over and over. It is geared to the musician's ability. One of the goals for the
350 SFSTF was to try and find activities to keep students attracted to school. **Sheryl**
351 suggested that we state in the description that the curriculum will be modified according
352 to the student's abilities to reflect our desire to keep it a rigorous and a growth
353

orientated experience.

Randy asked if there is a way that athletes can opt out of taking PE in the day utilizing their athletic experience as an offset to PE. Neal thinks this is great suggestion. Right now a student needs one PE credit; one of them can be waived if you are a two season athlete.

Motion: by Randy, seconded by Dick, to allow student athletes to earn up to 0.5 additional PE credits by participating in two seasons of a sport per year.

Sheryl and Carl noted that PE may be more important than just athleticism. It also includes health, etc. and possibly should be required. Sheryl stated that Neal should see what curriculum covers. Physical education is more than just are we in shape or not.

Sheryl called the question.

1 in favor (Randy), 6 opposed (Sheryl, Kelley, Dick, Janine, Rick, Syndi), 0 abstained.

Motion: by Syndi, seconded by Randy, that two consecutive seasons of junior varsity or varsity sports to fulfill the requirement of PE (0.5 credit per year), but not exceed this requirement.

Randy moved the question.

5 in favor (Dick, Janine, Rick, Syndi, Randy), 2 opposed (Sheryl, Kelley), 0 abstained.

Dick noted on page 105, History 503, Holocaust and Genocide of Modern Era. Does this include Iraq genocide against the Kurds, genocide in China, and Stalin's genocide in Russia? Neal does not know what is covered. Dick stated that his fear is that the students we are teaching today do not know what happened on 9/11. This is ancient history for them. This particular subject matter needs to be inclusive.

Syndi noted that directed study was taken out and they use the word tutorial. Neal explained this is a word change but he is trying to more closely aligned teacher with the content.

Syndi noted when talking about recommendations for grade level, the math dept recommended that students take two courses their sophomore year. There is no recommendation in junior year from science dept. Why isn't there any recommendation for science like we do for math. **Neal** explained math is specifically important for students to be successful on the NECAPS and SATs. Syndi asked that this explanation be placed somewhere so students would be aware of this and so parents would be more motivated to work with their children.

Syndi stated she was disappointed to see Trails listed in the Program of Studies as this is stigmatizing. **Neal** stated this has been called this since the original program began. He has had conversations with the teacher and the teacher has had the conversation with the kids. They said at this time they want to keep the name. The definition of JAG should be given in the Program of Studies. Was CAD changed to Computer Drawing? **Laurie** stated, yes. It is the same course, named differently to attract more students. **Syndi** noted that Page 5 states that students will participate in community service. We don't have this component anywhere. **Neal** stated this is in the school's mission statement. **Syndi** suggested that it state students "will be encouraged" to perform community service, not "will" perform community service. Discussion was held on whether or not the students perform community service. **Sheryl** suggests that it is part of the curriculum and directed the administration to be sure community service is being done.

413 **Vote on Approval of Program of Studies for KHS as amended: 7-0-0**

414
415
416 **D. Consider Approval of 2010-11 Eagle Academy Program of Studies**

417 Sheryl had no recommendations. Dick asked for clarification on credit recovery. There
418 was brief discussion the age requirement. **7-0-0.**

421
422 **9. Business Affairs**

423
424 **A. Consider Approval of Agreement between the Town of Conway, Conway School**
425 **System, and MWV Ski Touring Association**

426 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Rick, to review, discuss, and vote on item. **7-0-0**

428
429 **B. Assigning of Warrant Conversations**

430 Sheryl – 2 and 13
431 Dick - 3, 4, and 5
432 Kelley - 6
433 Janine - 7
434 Randy – 8 and 11
435 Rick - 9
436 Syndi - 10
437 Janine - 12

438 Sheryl will be preparing a PowerPoint presentation. Please provide her with info. If you
439 need any help from the SAU office to prepare your presentation, please contact them.

440
441
442 **10. Administrators' Reports**

443 **Carl** reported there will be an SAU Board Meeting on 2/25 at 6: 30 in Jackson. The Municipal
444 Budget Hearing will be Wednesday 2/10 at 7:00. The Deliberative Session will be on 3/1 at
445 7:00. Superintendent evaluation info should go to Sheryl.

446
447
448 **Sheryl** stated that at the last Municipal Budget Committee meeting, there were no
449 recommendations made. She asked if no recommendation meant that they will vote in favor of
450 budget; they said not necessarily, others just smiled. Until they vote she has no idea what the
451 Municipal Budget Committee's majority decision will be. They vote Wednesday after the
452 hearing. This is the first time they have made no recommendations.

453
454 **11. Board Members' Issues -- Board Discussion**

455 Kelley wanted to congratulate Leanne Smith for becoming an Olympian and wanted to plug
456 "Fill the Gym Night". Neal explained that the next girls' basketball game's gate proceeds and
457 50/50 raffle proceeds will be given to Leanne's family.

458
459
460 **A. Committee Reports**

461 **Rick** reported that Project Succeed will meet on May 8th at Kennett Middle. There will
462 be three activities per school. Mountain Top Music will be there, Tin Mountain will be
463 there, etc. There will give presentation of how the hours over the 10 years will be filled.
464 There are looking for ways to fund raise.

465
466
467 **Randy** stated that Board Members should be aware of SB372 which is going before the
468 legislature which will require school board members to undergo six hours of
469 professional development per year, paid for by the board member. NH School Board
470
471

472 has put a written comment in against it. 90% of members are opposed. Randy stated if
473 passed, this would discourage people for running for school board.

474
475 March 5th is the deadline for running for school board.

476
477 **12. Public Comments** (time permitting) - None.

478
479 **13. Adjournment**

480 **Motion:** by Janine, seconded by Randy, to adjourn. By roll call vote, all in favor.

481
482 **Meeting adjourned at 8:40.**
483
484