

SAU #9 AREA JOINT BOARDS
Mineral Springs Café - Kennett High School
January 28, 2010

Attending:

Vicki Harlow, Chairperson, Bartlett	Dr. Carl Nelson, SAU #9 Superintendent
Dan Perley, Bartlett	Dr. Robert Gadomski, SAU #9 Asst. Superintendent
Nancy Kelemen, Bartlett	Jay McIntire, SAU #13 Superintendent
Randy Davison, Conway	Neal Moylan, Principal, KHS
Dick Klement, Conway	Lori Babine, Career & Technical Center Dir.
Pat Philbrick, Eaton	
Jane Gray, Eaton	
Judi Goss, Eaton	
Jerry Dougherty, Jackson	
Andrew Kearns, Jackson	
Colleen Cormack, Albany	
James Sabina, Albany	
Joyce Watson, Freedom	
Ingrid DeWitt, Freedom	
Sarah Parsons, Madison	

Recording Secretary:
Gail T. Currier

Audience: 3

- 1. Call to Order:**
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman, Vicki Harlow.
- 2. Approval of Minutes (9-24-09):** Note was made by Mr. McIntire that at the bottom of Pg. 1 the word *pursuing* was spelled incorrectly. **Motion by Ms. DeWitt, second by Mr. Sabina, that the Minutes of the Sept. 24th, 2009 meeting be approved as corrected. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**
- 3. Public Comments:** John Sandonato of Tamworth expressed his gratitude and thanks to the teachers and coaches for “what Kennett High School has done for his daughter.”

Mr. Sandonato made reference to a newsletter which included a statement that “SAU 9 has been unwilling to indicate their interest in pursuing or supporting either option...,” about how SAU #9 feels about consolidation with SAU #13. He noted that at a meeting in Tamworth they seemed to feel it was an accurate statement.

Mr. McIntire said there have been several meetings, including one with Dr. Nelson, a significant amount of information was contributed; however, they asked for a level of detail of information that was beyond what was possible to predict - they wanted more than was possible to provide. He said the perspective was that they got what could reasonably be provided with this much lead time. He noted that Tamworth had to get more steps done. He said he appreciated the support they got; acknowledging that there

were some things that were requested that could not be provided. As regards the statement that “SAU 9 was not interested,” Ms. Harlow stated that is not true. Ms. Gray pointed out that SAU 9 took a vote to send a letter to SAU 13 to ask if they were interested in discussion and SAU 13 responded that they were not.

Mr. Dougherty said the word options might not be correct; SAU 9 is interested, but that is in a different context and that statement by itself, is not true. Mr. Sandonato said he feels it is unfair for the people in Tamworth to believe that it is true. Mr. Davison stated we took a vote and stated we were interested “by a pretty good majority.” He felt this statement should be retracted because it put a bad taste in some mouths. He said Tamworth students do go to Kennett and we do care about them.

4. Superintendents’ Reports:

A. Jay McIntire – Mr. McIntire stated they continue to be vigilant with regard to the H1N1 flu situation, have had some but are watching it closely.

NECAP Scores – Mr. McIntire said they are seeing striking improvements in math attributed to the implementation of Everyday Math; they are showing good progress.

It was reported that Madison Principal, Mr. Ernest, is “data driven” which is great for the teachers. He noted in past years there have been a large number of grievances, and they have had none since he went in.

It was reported that the Tamworth Principal is retiring at the end of the year and will be missed.

Mr. McIntire noted that in order to assist in developing the budget this year they sent teams to visit other successful small schools in the State, which helped going into the budget process and will also be helpful when it comes time to defend the budget.

B. Carl Nelson – Dr. Nelson stated he is happy to announce that the new drop out rate at Kennett has dropped to 1.1% which exceeds our goal for this year.

Dr. Nelson, noting that the focus of tonight’s meeting is Program of Studies, turned the meeting over to Principal, Neal Moylan.

5. KHS/KMS/Career Tech. Reports:

A. Neal Moylan –

1. 2010-11 KHS Program of Studies

Mr. Moylan noted that in many instances there has been a consolidation of courses. They have moved forward to find a schedule that was able to leverage all the resources in the high school that we have today. The schedule has been some 60 minute, some 90 minute blocks, ending up with a number of 30 minute blocks that are so-called study halls. They

have put together a committee of teachers, department heads, and School Board members Jane Gray and Kelley Murphy, who looked at a number of different models and recommended 80 minute blocks – black/white (alternating day) schedule. This will result in a lot less chaos as there are only four times a day when students will be moving through the hallways.

He noted they are looking at increasing the number of AP courses; the double block allows students to get certification in two languages, sets the stage to take a serious look at the international baccalaureate program throughout the state. It is similar to an NAP program, but is a notch above and much more rigorous. He stated it allows us to begin to leverage the courses in all of the electives. He gave as an example the number of students that are able to work in culinary – only 8 or 9 can access it because of the way the schedule has been playing out. They are looking to having much greater access to elective courses.

They have simplified the credit calculation in order to be in alignment with the rest of the State. Mr. Moylan noted our graduation requirement presently is 80 credits, they now propose to make it so that one full year course is one credit, $\frac{1}{2}$ is $\frac{1}{2}$ credit, and $\frac{1}{4}$ is $\frac{1}{4}$ credit (of which there are very few). They looked at the number of students that are in repeater courses. They are now trying to move students through their freshman year – if they are not doing well they will be placed in a tutorial. They are hoping to get 97% to 98% with at least 6 to 7 credits through their freshman year. They also want to provide for AP students a much greater depth of learning. They recommend students take two math courses during their sophomore year so they will be able to take algebra the freshman year, algebra II, and geometry.

Mr. Moylan said there is also a proposal to go from three math credits to four math credits. As for the 80 minute courses, it will be difficult to prepare teachers to teach for that length of time. A number of courses now are already in the block. They have a course called Learning Through Teaching for the teachers, which is taught by Penny Kittle. Sixteen teachers are tied to that course. Elaine Millen at Granite State College will be coming in and working in professional development with the teachers for the next few months and into next year.

They have changed the format of faculty meetings so that at each meeting there is a substantial amount of faculty members demonstrating and sharing what is going on with the rest of the school. There will be training support to make sure our teachers are successful in this block.

Ms. Cormack expressed concern with the block schedule, that less movement is a good thing, but 80 minutes is a long time. Mr. Moylan stated you cannot teach, cannot lecture, for 80 minutes which is the reason for providing the training described above. The block is split in 20 minute segments, it has to be kept moving – it is differentiated instruction.

Graduation Requirements: Mr. Moylan noted it is now 24.5 credits – nothing has been added or subtracted, it is purely a mathematical exchange.

He explained in the Program of Studies they have taken pains to make sure students understand the difference between the old schedule and the new; all recommendations are aligned with School Board policy and help students to make better choices when preparing for college or furthering their education.

Course changes were outlined: They now will offer an advanced level of trigonometry. International Business, Finance and Economics has replaced Professional Business Communications, working on economics credit.

Freshman reading (previously Workplace Writing): a supplemental course for kids not reading at the 8th grade level. Mr. Moylan stated they have a number of options available to lower the drop out rate, GED is one of them; however, they have to be able to read at the 8th grade level – they have found some reading at 4th or 5th grade level and this will help them learn to read.

He stated they have taken out Popular Fiction and are now offering Literature Into Film; Project Challenge has been removed and Hardware and Software Applications is now offered. Health and Career Awareness has been removed and Targeted Study Skills Enhancement is being offered. It was explained that many students do not know how to take notes, compile a report, do research; this helps youngsters get on board and stay at grade level.

JAG (Jobs for America) replaces Software Applications and is funded through a federal grant. Mr. Moylan stated this is a great opportunity to prepare kids for the workplace, to learn interviewing skills, learn to write a resume.

Career Technical Math replaces Cisco ID Essentials: PC Hardware and Software v4.0 – Mr. Moylan stated the lowest level in the high school is integrated Math I; the problem is that some of our kids are significantly below that level. This will combine the opportunity to utilize some of the resources in the Career Tech Center.

Mr. Davison said his concern with students being below level in the math area is the State requires only algebra for graduation requirements. Mr. Moylan pointed out that when you get youngsters up to taking integrated math it provides algebra; they do not have to take geometry.

Advance Level of Trigonometry has been added – the aim is to have all advance students to be challenged with rigorous learning; students, once they get into AP, are reluctant to drop down to CP.

Ms. Cormack noted Spanish I, Part I has been removed and questioned whether there is another one. Mr. Moylan stated there is Spanish I and Spanish II, noting students from Tamworth are not taking languages any more. There is also Spanish III for a full year - those that are not accessing Spanish or German are able to catch up with this program.

Ms. DeWitt questioned why they are waiting until 9th grade for those who have a 4th or 5th grade reading level. Dr. Nelson noted that is not a question for Mr. Moylan. Mr. Moylan advised it is being addressed through alignment of curriculum.

Ms. Cormack noted Child Development class is not a requirement for graduation, but it has been her desire that a basic introduction of that be a requirement; it would be an opportunity for future parents to learn some basic knowledge. Mr. Moylan said we offer a requirements list with electives.

Mr. Davison said he is not in favor of the math – the State requires 20 credits. The Guidance Dept. role is to venture forth paths for children. He stated we do not give them a chance to take electives because we have “maxed them out.” Mr. Moylan said Kingswood requires 26 credits, Moultonboro 23.5 - the median is 24. He stated no one wants to provide their child with the *minimum* requirement. Mr. Davison said he thinks that is why we have Eagle Academy in place, the State puts 20 credits in line for a purpose.

Under Graduation Requirements, Ms. Harlow questioned Focus Area Electives (3.0 credits) – Level III in a world language, three or more courses in art or music, or Career-Tech Completer status – and wished to know why we are directing electives. Mr. Moylan said we are looking at our students being able to get into some of our colleges; for instance, UNH wants three courses out of that group.

As regards the requirement of 24.5 credits to graduate, Mr. Klement recommended dropping it to 24 so it is an even number of credits, so they are not behind, because courses are even numbers. Ms. Gray recommended increasing it by ½ credit to 25. **Motion was made by Ms. Goss, seconded by Ms. Philbrick, to recommend increasing the number of credits required to graduate to 25.**

Mr. Dougherty said he does not personally see an issue with the extra half credit, there are other ways to make up credits. Mr. Klement said it enables a student to graduate in January of their senior year if they so choose. Mr. Perley pointed out if a student were to take a full course load all four years, they would end up with 32 credits. Vote was taken on Ms. Goss’ motion. The Motion was defeated.

Motion was made by Mr. Klement, seconded by Mr. Davison, to recommend requiring 24 credits for graduation.

Mr. Davison made note that World Cultures (1.0 credits) .5 credit in that arena is sufficient, stating it forces his freshman son to take World History and he suggests it be .5 credit. **Mr. Klement’s motion was defeated. The majority support the current 24.5.**

With regard to the new block scheduling, Paula Shappell noted students would be meeting for 80 minute blocks, and on Monday, Wed., and Fri, will meet with one set of classes. She said for Spanish, or any first year language, her concern is the consistency and the repetition of that concept – for instance, if a child is out sick one of the two

remaining days, he/she would only meet with that teacher for one day. Mr. Moylan said they are looking at providing students with the skill sets to be prepared for the collegiate level; if they are out, they have the opportunity to meet with the teacher the next day. The solution, if taking Spanish I, would be taking a semester of Spanish every day, then they would take Spanish II every day for the second semester.

Ms. Harlow questioned on Pg. 20 under Grading, the elimination of the paragraph which refers to how the credits are calculated. Mr. Moylan said homework completion is plummeting, the number of students getting work in on time has gone completely backward; also the kids are not participating in class. The freshman house still sees the kids doing their homework because they have not yet figured out the system. The kids need to see if they do their homework their grade is adjusted. He noted a committee has been formed to work on proposing something to take the place of that.

Under Grading, Mr. Klement made reference to letter grade equivalent of A thru F, noting there is no A+, whereas in the pupil progress plan there is. Mr. Moylan said he will correct that.

Ms. Cormack questioned whether there is a venue for parents/public feedback so the Board can know how they feel about courses? Mr. Moylan said people who come through Kennett are very impressed, often commenting it is like a college campus. Ms. Cormack felt it would be nice to know what courses are favorite or least favorite. Dr. Nelson stated enrollment is an indication of performance. Ms. Kelemen stated the guidance counselors should also have a good knowledge of that.

Ms. Cormack noted environmental science is offered for 11th and 12th grades only and wished to know with the new role of green jobs whether there is anything to prepare students for “green” careers. Mr. Moylan said previously they had a course called Green Careers, but there was not enough interest expressed by the kids.

Ms. Cormack said she loves the work-based learning program. She would love to see the Eagle Hour on Channel 3 more often. Mr. Moylan said the trend probably is to go the other way – the funding stream from PEG has dried up.

Introduction to Automotive Technology (Pg. 34) - Ms. Harlow wished to know why seniors can't take this course. Ms. Babine explained they wanted to make sure there is room for the underclassmen to continue on in the program; seniors can take it if there is space.

Work Cooperative - Pg. 33 – Mr. Klement questioned maximum number of credits a student can get under the work cooperative. Mr. Moylan did not have the answer, but said he thinks it is up to two; the same for internship. He will verify the numbers and get back to Mr. Klement.

Ms. Harlow made note that they are getting rid of the CAD program. Mr. Moylan said they changed the title to Computer Drawing and Design as the kids did not know what CAD was.

Adv. Health Science Technologies –Pg. 50 – Ms. Harlow questioned what happened with the health care facilities. Ms. Babine said the students will be assigned to different places, noting part of the issue is transportation. She also directed the Board to the first sentence which states: “Students will combine classroom study of the human body with job internships at local area healthcare facilities (hospital, nursing home, clinic, etc.),” which was not stricken from the text.

English I – Pg. 58 – Ms. Harlow questioned why English 101 and English 102 have been taken out. Mr. Moylan said it was confusing to parents, also there was feedback from Guidance. It has always been on level.

English For Speakers of Other Languages – Pg. 58 – Mr. Klement questioned whether after this course they would be mainstreamed into other English. Mr. Moylan stated they presently have no one in this class; however, he expects if someone were to take it, they would be mainstreamed.

Mr. Davison said regarding the grading system, he would like to see something regarding mid terms and final assessments whereby if a student has an A+ average, that as a perk he/she would be allowed to not have to take mid term and final exams - by averaging the two quarters they would be exempt. Mr. Moylan said 10% is the value of a mid term grade; he is not in favor of lowering our standards. It was Mr. Davison’s opinion that it is not lowering, but the students work hard and do not get a lot of perks. Mr. Perley stated he has a student who went through Kennett and is now in college. He said in college it is all about the test, so omitting them from the test, which is all they will be evaluated on in college, gives a false sense of being a superstar. It is an important part of their learning. Dr. Nelson suggested this may be a discussion for staff.

Graduation requirements – Pg. 112 – Comment was made that the Arts are missing. Mr. Moylan said the page is a tool for students for how they might fill out their schedule.

Mr. Davison, referring to Pg. 9, stated it says World Cultures is a requirement. Mr. Moylan said World Cultures is not seen as a requirement at the academic level, World History is, because it is viewed as an academic course at the college level.

Mr. Klement pointed out that Guitar – Pg. 69/70 – can be taken in sophomore year and a student can continue to take it in their junior and senior years. Mr. Moylan said for some students music is the positive connection; students have an opportunity to get 32 credits – Guitar III is a perk. Mr. Klement expressed that they do not offer the same thing for theater or the arts or, for instance, drum line – it is O.K. for guitar, but not for other things. Mr. Dougherty commented it is good to go through the Program of Studies, but that is outside the scope of what this Board is for – this is questioning the logistics of

each course. Ms. Cormack said she appreciates being able to talk about it in depth. Ms. DeWitt and Ms. Harlow agreed.

Mr. Klement noted that some students are saying there will be no more study halls. Mr. Moylan said there is no question that study halls serve a valuable purpose, for instance, for those in sports, those who have a work schedule, etc. He said there will be, during the course of the day, study halls; however, they wanted to eliminate those 30 minute little quick blips. He stated study halls should be richer and more productive than ever before.

B. Trish Jacobson – Eagle Academy Program of Studies (written report provided and on file)

C. Lori Babine – (written report provided and on file)

D. Kevin Richard – (written report provided and on file)

Dr. Nelson explained he had not asked the people providing those reports to attend tonight's meeting due to the length of the subject matter on the agenda.

6. Board Member Issues:

Ms. Cormack questioned if a student is taking the test to get a GED whether they are considered in the drop out rate? Mr. Moylan said is it the GED option, they receive a secondary diploma. There are five pre-tests, they are drilled in the same manner as with the SATs. Ms. Cormack said they are not considered a drop out.

Ms. Harlow said she is hearing in the community about substance abuse problems at KHS and wished to know how this is being addressed. Mr. Moylan said we have a School Resource Officer who is the finest SRO we have ever had. Also we have a spectacular working relationship with the Police Dept. He said the camera system has proved to be a tremendous asset, the number of incidences is at an all time low; students know if they are going to bring drugs to school it better not be on this campus. He referred also to a sign at the base of the road stating this is a drug free campus, this has pushed it out of this school into the Wal-Mart parking lot. He feels there is a dramatic decrease.

A. Date for Next Meeting – May 27, 2010.

B. Topics for Next Meeting – None

7. Any Other Business: None

8. Adjourn: Motion was made by Ms. Kelemen, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary