

SAU #9 AREA JOINT BOARDS
Mineral Springs Café - Kennett High School
September 24, 2009

Attending:

Vicki Harlow, Bartlett
Dan Perley, Bartlett
James Curran, Madison
Sarah Parsons, Madison
Randy Davison, Conway
Dick Klement, Conway
James Sabina, Albany
Colleen Cormack, Albany
Jerry Dougherty, Jackson
Genn Anzaldi, Jackson
Jane Gray, Eaton
Judi Goss, Eaton
Ingrid DeWitt, Freedom
Joyce Watson, Freedom

Dr. Carl Nelson, SAU #9 Superintendent
Dr. Robert Gadomski, SAU #9 Asst. Supt.
Jay McIntire, SAU #13 Superintendent
Neal Moylan, Principal, KHS
Rick Barnes, Vice Principal, KHS
Laurie Babine, Director, Career & Tech. Center
Kevin Richard, Principal, KMS

Recording Secretary:
Gail T. Currier

Audience: 0

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman, Vicki Harlow. Introductions were made.

- 2. Approval of Minutes (5-28-09):** Ms. Cormack offered the following corrections: Pg. 5, last para.,*children need to be exposed prior to age ten to learning other languages.* Pg. 6, 4th para., Re:....*parking fees being linked to funding for recycling.* Clarification of Dr. Loynd's explanation referencing recycling as regards parking fees, may have been with regard to students carpooling, thus saving energy. **Motion by Ms. Goss, second by Ms. Gray, to approve the Minutes of the May 28th meeting as corrected. Motion carried with 12 votes in the affirmative and abstentions by Messrs. Curran and Sabina.**

- 3. Public Comments:** None.

4. Superintendents' Reports:

A. Jay McIntire – Mr. McIntire said there has been much debate as to the advantages and disadvantages of pulling out of SAU #13 and joining SAU #9. They will recommend not pursuing it at this time, they have not ruled it out, it may happen sometime in the future.

Mr. McIntire stated policy revision across the SAU is a strong priority this year. There has been a change in leadership at Madison Elementary School, with the new Principal, Brian Ernest, bringing a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the position.

He commented that school opening was very successful and they are off to a good start. There has been some flu at the Freedom school, about 10% of staff/students have been out.

B. Carl Nelson –

1. SAU #9 Target Goals for 2009-12 - Dr. Nelson reported an excellent start throughout SAU 9. He made reference to an article summing up the valley, making note of last year's EDies, the valley sticking together to accomplish tasks.

There was a review of target goals for 2009-12, looking to eventually accomplish the #1 goal which is to reduce the dropout rate to zero. He noted that all efforts made with the Student Success Task Force are being rewarded and thanked all for their support. Other goals are to Improve Reading and overall Literacy Skills, Utilize Performance-based Student Achievement Data to ensure growth for all students, and Better Health and Wellness.

2. NECAP – Dr. Gadomski explained NECAP tests are used in a variety of ways, a means to gathering data, drilling down from school to grade level, to class, to child, to the skills children are successful in or are lacking in. A chart of Conway School District mean scaled scores showing growth over time was provided – reading scores for 2005-09 are going up. Also we have been consistently at or above State mean average.

In writing, across the board, at the 8th and 11th grade level kids are doing very well. He noted a little dip in math scores in Middle School, but is starting to inch back up again, headed in the right direction. At KHS only grade 11 is tested, but math, writing and reading are all doing very well.

AYP Status - Middle School – Students with educational disabilities also made AYP. He stated we need to work on tracking kids down if they were out ill, etc., and make sure they finish the tests. He noted KHS made AYP, subjects made AYP, missed participation rate by 1% or 2%. He stressed the need to set make up times and have those kids finish.

Website – Dr. Gadomski noted that the website in the past for SAU 9 was muddled or non-existent and a new one has been put in: sau9.org. From that page people can link to any schools in the District to access event calendar, open house, upcoming events, concerts, etc. Also it helps staff with scheduling their events. Mr. Davison questioned who monitors it. Dr. Gadomski said it depends on the section - KMS is still responsible for their website, as is Pine Tree, etc. Ms. DeWitt noted the teachers maintain it at KMS. Mr. Moylan said the KHS website will be completely revamped using input from the teachers, noting a number of teachers are running their own websites for the classes now. He stated it is not a hired or paid position to update the website.

Ms. Cormack questioned with regard to NECAP, the fact that there is not a multi-racial category to be checked (no box that says other) and wonders at Middle School and High School how it is done. It was noted that DOE has a proposal presently to include it.

Kennett High School Behavior Matrix – Vice Principal, Rick Barnes, provided a copy of the KHS Behavioral Matrix based on being respectful, responsible, and safe, along with definitions as pertains to minor and major behavior as compiled by the Positive Action Committee Team. He noted that kids here are far better behaved than other schools he has worked in. He stated the Matrix has been reviewed with staff, students, homeroom teachers. Disciplinary codings have been cleaned up. The information gives data to look at twice a month to see where problem areas are. He cited as an example the new dress code, noting kids are accepting it. Also the school is seeing reduced class cuts. He said the key is being consistent all the way through.

5. **KHS/KMS/Career Tech. Reports:**

A. Neal Moylan – Mr. Moylan stated the high school is off to a terrific start, great enthusiasm. He identified seven basic objectives for this year's theme: "preparing students for success in the 21st century." Increase interdisciplinary activity across all content areas, continue culture of respect and tolerance; reduction of the dropout rate to 2%, continue advancement of reading and writing skills; streamline and add a proactive discipline structure; implementation of ED line throughout KHS; increase use of technology throughout all disciplines to encourage reasoning, creative problem solving and active learners in our school.

Mr. Moylan explained they are working to stress the interdisciplinary relationships. Continue the culture of respect within the high school. He said in addition to the training of students we have a much more respectful school, much greater feeling of tolerance. He said we have gotten a good handle on bullying and harassment, but will continue to keep an eye on that. We are intensely serious with regard to getting to zero dropout rate – last year were at 2.3%, goal this year is 2%.

New this year for students behind in grades and who do not feel the option of going to Eagle Academy is worth it for them, the GED option has been instituted, including preparation for the GED test. In the freshman house they have a grade recovery plan in place for those who were not able to achieve a sufficient number of credits.

The ED line system will be implemented school-wide in the second semester and will provide parents and students with up to date information and enhanced communication on students' academic performance. On this they can also post syllabus, assignments, calendar of events – it is a more pro-active approach to engaging parents in the education of their child.

Noting that all of today's youth is very familiar with technology, Mr. Moylan stated we need to know how to leverage that technology as a tool, for instance, through skype, getting kids engaged because that is the way they are used to communicating.

It was reported that enrollment of KHS and Eagle Academy is 909 students, an increase of 41 over last year. Eagle Academy is having its own momentum, kids bringing other kids in.

Mr. Moylan noted that SATs used to be offered once a year; if a child wanted to take it more than that he/she would have to travel to Berlin or Fryeburg. This year it will be offered three times.

The library will be open five days a week until late bus every day, offering a place kids can go to after school that was not there before – they now can go to the cafeteria, watch a sporting event, or go to the library.

Mr. Moylan reported there are far too many kids sitting in the cafeteria and not eating; some do not have the money to buy lunch. A new program is being introduced this year whereby the KHS ID can be used as a debit card in the cafeteria, providing complete payment anonymity for all students as they move through the lunch line, removing any stigma for those students receiving free and reduced lunch as well.

Guidance Dept. – Newsletter went out to every parent and student prior to beginning of school. A video has been made on how to go through the process of preparing a college application, how to fill out documentation, advising exactly what needs to be sent in. This will also be posted on the website.

NHJAG Program – The JAG grant has been extended for the next three years and allows funding to put 20 JAG students to work for six weeks over the summer. Students worked on the grounds, cleaned gum from the underside of desks, picked vegetables to donate to food banks, helped various local organizations such as Gibson Senior Center. Positive testimony from some of the students who took part was provided in the newsletter.

Ms. DeWitt said she likes the idea of the ID card and questioned whether there is anything in place so that it can be used for discounts at local establishments. Mr. Moylan said he is working on getting local businesses involved in giving discounts to students with KHS ID cards, also offering discounts when attending sporting events at school. Mr. Curran questioned how they would determine what the balance of the account is for the lunch program. Dr. Nelson said when they swipe the card with the cafeteria it will show that; also parents will be able to go on line and put money in their child's account. Mr. Davison stated we are losing federal funding with regard to students failing to apply for free and reduced lunch – the cards may take that stigma away and more will apply. Ms. DeWitt questioned whether this program can be passed along to SAU #13. Mr. McIntire stated those programs are in place. Mr. Klement said the system is \$10,000 to \$15,000 in cost, but they can do many things with the same card so the payback is multiplied several times.

Regarding foreign languages, Ms. Cormack questioned whether the German program is being phased out. Mr. Moylan stated it is alive and well and is *not* being phased out – KHS is offering German II, III and IV. He stated it is difficult to find language teachers, he look all summer for German, Spanish and French teachers. Ms. Harlow noted students from Bartlett or Jackson cannot then take German. Mr. Moylan said at this time there is no German I.

Ms. Cormack questioned the progress of a program for K-8 foreign language at the elementary level. Dr. Nelson said they have completed the task the Conway Board has assigned, but have not had time to address the issue of foreign language.

B. Lori Babine – Career/Tech Center – Ms. Babine announced the Perkins Grant has been approved by the DOE. The Center has a new Property Management teacher, Business teacher, Culinary Arts Instructor and new Health Science Occupations teacher, as well as a new sous chef for the Mineral Springs Café. She noted the new Property Management teacher, who is very enthusiastic, has begun a project of building an ice fishing house which will likely be offered for sale. Mineral Springs Café is open to the public Tues., Wed. and Thurs. from 11:00 to 12:30 and will also be offering take-home dinners.

The Center is excited about getting the bridge project going at the gazebo which will involve building trades, machine shop and CAD students. They are hoping to have it done by spring. Little Eagles Program is off and running.

Adult Education – Ms. Babine credited Pat Philbrick who has worked all summer on programs – fifteen new programs will be offered. They have about 90 people already enrolled, 20 high school students are enrolled in the SAT Prep classes.

C. Kevin Richard – Mr. Richard commented on the anxieties facing 12 to 14 year olds, noting staff is committed to making sure that all parts of their day have gone smoothly. Kids are proud to say they are from Kennett Middle School. Eighth graders participated in a community service project on the anniversary of 9-11, cleaning up roadsides. Garden Club – this summer they included a vegetable garden which provided salad materials for the cookout. KMS staff attended a seminar on recycling this year.

A field trip up the Kancamagus to study local history is planned with a visit to the Russell Colbath House and a trip to Sabbaday Falls. 70% of students are participating in the various organized activities.

Mr. Richard said there is a big push this year on student portfolios. After six weeks each student should have two pieces of work for that – something they can refer to and reflect on.

He noted the website is “awesome.” He has committed to his staff to include a piece every Sunday night.

The RED (Read Every Day) Program is once again off and running – the school shuts down every day for 20 minutes for reading. Each child has a goal of 25 books read per child. It is very successful, kids are talking about books, it is increasing the volume of reading, has paid dividends. They have started NWEA (computerized) testing which shows the strengths for each child in reading, math and language arts.

7. Board Member Issues:

A. Date for Next Meeting – January 28, 2010.

B. Topics for Next Meeting – Program of Studies.

Mr. McIntire suggested discussion of what will happen when the end of the ARRA money comes, commenting “the State’s budget over the next two years is frightening.”

Ms. Cormack thanked those who had attended the seminar on recycling, representing Freedom, Pine Tree, John Fuller, Conway School Board and Kennett Middle School. It was noted there had been great feedback. Dr. Nelson suggested if holding another seminar it be scheduled at a time other than noon time since Jackson and Bartlett cannot attend at that time of day.

8. Any Other Business: None.

9. Adjourn: Motion was made by Mr. Curran, seconded by Ms. Dewitt and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary