

Dover School Committee meeting minutes 1/8/2009

Committee Present: Darin Correll, Jennifer DaSilva, Susan Hackney, Bob Springett and James Stuart

Others Present: Kirk Downing, Deb Reinemann, Valerie Spriggs, David Stapleton

Called to order at 1910.

Time to Learn

Mr. Downing briefed the committee on discussions with SAC and the teacher's communication committee regarding Time to Learn. Chickering has approximately 40 hours less of instructional time per year compared to Pine Hill. We have "just enough" time to cover the required curriculum. His recommendation is to move to an every other half-day Wednesday schedule similar to Pine Hill. This amount of time will not be enough to add a new curricular offering but rather will offer "buffer" time to the present curriculum.

It was discussed that it will need to be determined exactly how the extra time will be used. For example it could be used for increasing the small groups necessary for the RTI model. It will need to be ensured that learning time is maximized (given the increased time) as well as teacher professional development (given the decreased time). Implications identified thus far include the teachers aide hours (with an approximate \$11,000 increase to the budget), an additional 17 days per year when a second pickup for the buses will be needed (Ms. Spriggs will determine if this will have budget implications) and after school band will have to be altered.

Technology

Ms Spriggs informed the committee that the Network Administrator for Chickering will be out on medical leave for some time. The Region Network Administrator (Jean Conkey) has been promoted to Interim Technology Manager, and a replacement for her position has been hired. Ms. Conkey will help out with duties at Chickering until the Network Administrator returns.

The committee discussed the possibility of hiring a Technology consultant to help Chickering determine "where we need to go." Ms. DaSilva will contact someone whom she has received information about at Harvard University (Jennifer Groff) who has done research and published in the field of technology in elementary schools.

Next Meeting Topics

Accelerated Learning, Foreign Language, Process for Assessing Ongoing Needs

Adjourned at 2040.

Respectfully submitted by:
Darin J. Correll, M.D.
Secretary DSC