Planning Session

SALEM SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #37
SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 15, 2015
7:00 p.m.
SHS TV Studio

MINUTES

Present:
Mr. Michael Carney, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Pamela Berry, Vice Chairman
Mr. Peter Morgan, Secretary
Mrs. Patricia Corbett, Member
Mr. Bernard Campbell, Member

Also Present:
Dr. Michael Delahanty, Ed. D., Superintendent
Mrs. Deborah Payne, Assistant Superintendent for
Business Operations
Mrs. Diana Darnstaedt, Director of Finance

Absent:
Mrs. Maura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Carney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA

Salem High School Block Scheduling and Freshman Program Discussion

Dr. Delahanty stated this is an opportunity for the board to talk about the high school schedule. He explained that block scheduling started in 1996 and the 28 credit requirement has been in place since 2000. Prior to that the schedule was an eight period day, and students were required to take seven credits per year, with 21 credits required to graduate. He stated that block scheduling added opportunities to acquire additional credits and allowed students a broader choice of courses. Dr. Delahanty then reviewed sample schedules with the board.

Mrs. Berry asked if the block schedule is preferred, and if there is any thought being given to changing it back. Mrs. Collyer responded that she feels that they can make any schedule work and that the block schedule has been successful. She said there has been no consideration given to returning to an eight period day.

Ms. Burke explained that schedules are selected with the students by first talking to them about life after Salem High. Guidance and students work backwards together to see what Salem High has to offer. She stated that they make sure students are going to meet the graduation
requirements, but also make sure the courses chosen are challenging as well. There is also input from parents and recommendations from teachers during the process.

Mr. Morgan asked if having a later school start time has been discussed. Mrs. Collyer stated that typically teenagers do sleep later in the mornings, but that it’s hard to determine what an ideal start time would be. Mr. Morgan stated he would like to see some thought put into that and see if Salem would even have another option than what it has now.

Mrs. Corbett mentioned that the grade of “D” is considered passing, but feels it should be a “C”. Dr. Delahanty stated Mrs. Collyer and her staff work on competency based grading to get a better idea of student performance. He said we ultimately want students to meet a level of competence so we can confidently move them on and have them be prepared for the future.

Mr. Carney asked if the reasons for switching to block scheduling still exist. Mrs. Collyer replied that there are benefits to block scheduling, but there are many different types of block schedules. She explained that many schools are changing it up to meet their needs.

**IT Staffing**

Dr. Delahanty stated there was a lot of preparation for moving to the new server room that began at 6:00 p.m. Friday afternoon, and that everything was up and working fine by 9:00 p.m. He commended Mr. Hasbany, IT Director and his team for all their hard work behind the scenes to make it happen.

Mr. Hasbany reviewed the organizational chart of the IT Department, and reviewed job responsibilities. He stated that he feels the IT Department is appropriately staffed at this time. He stated there are nine people supporting 4,300 people across eight buildings, with some support offered to parents for Infinite Campus. He explained that there are three support technicians and a system administrator. Mr. Hasbany explained that the web administrator manages eight core websites and the intranet. The junior network administrator operates 56 devices across the buildings as well as the 32 wireless access points. The Integration Specialist works with teachers and specialists, and has approximately 316 people to support. Mr. Hasbany stated that to continue to be successful he will keep people in the right positions and look critically at the department to help cross train people and improve areas that need improvement.

Mr. Campbell asked what the system administrator’s day looks like on a daily basis. Mr. Hasbany stated that while at times things run smoothly on a daily basis, there is always something to work on. Sometimes it will be the moving of data from one environment to another or upgrading systems. There is always some process that needs to be tweaked.

**Other**

Mr. Carney reminded the board about the school open houses scheduled for this week.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mrs. Corbett, second by Mr. Campbell to adjourn.  

  Motion carried 5-0
The board adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Lani R. Leland
Recording Secretary, Salem School Board
September 15, 2015