

Student Services Committee Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2015

School Board Members in Attendance:

Brenda Clough, Sarah Singer

Brunswick School Department Representative:

Paul Austin, Director of Student Services

Jeff Ramich, BHS Athletic Director

Jean Skorapa, HBS Principal

Meeting was called to order by Brenda Clough at 9:37am.

1. Mr. Austin requested an adjustment to the agenda to hear an overview of the Stowe Configuration Committee work at HBS. Mr. Austin also requested an adjustment to provide a report in regards to K-12 Assessment for 2015-2016. Both adjustments were approved and added to the end of the agenda.
2. Mr. Ramich provided report on the BHS athletic program with a complete list of facts and figures regarding student participation and cost per pupil in each sport. Currently, 58% of BHS students participate in at least one athletic offering at BHS. There are 46 athletic teams at BHS, with an appropriated budget of \$143,556. The average per pupil cost of participation is \$178.77. Of the 465 students participating in athletics, 237 are female and 228 are males. Many athletes participate in more than one athletic team each year. Mr. Ramich also highlighted the accomplishments of the BHS athletic program which included MPA Sportsmanship awards in 2015 for Girls Cross Country, Winter Cheering, Boys Indoor Track, and Girls Ice Hockey.
3. Mrs. Skorapa provided the committee with a brief overview of the Stowe Community Configuration Advisory Committee work for 2014. In her presentation, Mrs. Skorapa provided members with a brief history of transition work that began in March, 2010 prior to the opening of HBS. In December of 2014, Mrs. Skorapa formed the Stowe Community Configuration Committee, charged with making recommendations to the HBS Leadership Committee and to the full staff in regards to school configuration. In her presentation, Mrs. Skorapa discussed the process of the committee, which included conducting an inventory of the current community configuration. Particularly important was an understanding of what is working well and identifying some of the constraints. This spring, the Committee requested proposals from staff in regards to configuration. 8 proposals were received. Four of those proposals were not identified under the umbrella of configuration, but four others were forwarded and acted upon for 2015. These included the development of a 3 person, grade 5 content specialization team (with parent opt-out options), a 2 person, grade 3 team; incorporating a scheduled uninterrupted Morning Meeting time designed by the Responsive Classroom Experience, research and philosophy; and a team teaching approach between special education and a general education classroom. Mrs. Skorapa provided the committee with a progress report for implementation and an extensive list of the "Cross Grade Level Connections" available to students at HBS.

4. Mr. Austin provided the Committee with an update on the work toward creating a new self-contained program at HBS for 2015-16 that will be designed to meet the needs of children with substantial/significant behavioral challenges. Mr. Austin reported that he and Mrs. Skorapa met recently with Dr. Heather Alvarez to discuss the potential plan for implementation. Mr. Austin and Mrs. Skorapa reported that this meeting was very profitable and that the changes will be very positive for managing children with behavioral needs at HBS.
5. Mr. Austin reported to the Committee that there will be some changes to the screening assessments used for 2015/2016. Currently, the NWEA is being used in grades 2-10 to assess students at least two times per year. Over the course of the past several months, the administrative team has been reviewing the assessment needs of the district and has determined to eliminate the NWEA for 2015/2016. The NWEA will be replaced by Aimsweb for Math and Reading in grades K-5, and grades 6-12 will use the STAR Assessment. The reason for the change is that the district is required to screen all students in grades K-12 and the NWEA is not able to do that. Additionally, Aimsweb and STAR both reduce the time needed for assessment; they can be given to all students; and they can be used for progress monitoring for RTI.
6. Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Austin, Director of Student Services on May 14, 2015