

**Education Committee Minutes**  
Tuesday, May 2, 2017  
Nokomis Regional High School

**Committee Members Present:** Ken Sands, Paul Carter, Susie Hopkins, Robin McNeil, Don Mendell, Winn Price, Chad Stratton

**Members Absent:** Samantha Brown

**Others Present:** Mike Hammer, Sherri Gould, Angela Brown, Don Roux, Jane Stork, Liz Mares, Mary Nadeau, Ellen Payne, Sue Orcutt, Kelly Burns

I. Public Comment

Angela and Kelly discussed Laura Robb's visit to the District. This was a wonderful donation of time. She was able to teach our students and be observed by our teachers as well as some visitors from other districts. A true testament to the great things going on in the District and a creative use of resources. Winn Price and Mike Hammer also participated in this event. Laura has donated another day for next year.

II. Math Curriculum Work

Ellen Payne and Sue Orcutt gave a very detailed update on the process of our Math curriculum development. The Committee reviewed the standards and performance indicators for each grade level. The work surrounds further revision of the appropriate standards, aligning and piloting assessment, and further time to work together. It will also be helpful when there is similar instruction framework in each elementary and one middle school. There is a need to refine and reflect on the work as well as provide professional development for the teachers, especially in grades K-4. Sue has found working with the high school teachers, as an eighth grade teacher, very helpful. It is crucial that the students enter high school with a similar experience in Math. We used to have Jane Stork as a Math specialist and would benefit from Math coaches. We have a lot of local knowledge in Math as Victor LaPrade, Ellen and Julie McFarland each of whom participated in University of Maine Farmington coaching pilot. We do have the opportunity for a variety of experiences in Math to challenge all levels of students.

III. Budget Items that Impact the Education Committee

Mary discussed the need for another Science teacher, this is to replace all that has been lost at the high school and to allow for some flexibility for a transitional eighth grade program. We could be offering labs in Physics, honors level Sciences, Envirothon, etc. Under proficiency based expectations from the state, we will need to offer 4 "learning experiences" in Science for our students. (The Committee recommends to keep in budget.)

Liz Mares advocated for a middle level special education teacher. This would keep caseloads to manageable numbers and this was also a reduction last year. It works now but the number of students coming up to Somerset with IEP's will push caseloads up quite a bit. (Pending other options, the Committee recommends keeping this position)

IV. Other

Don Mendell distributed a paper for members to review.

V. Items for Next Agenda

VI. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hammer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Hammer  
Superintendent of Schools