

Region 14 Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
High School Library
September 23, 2010

Meeting Start Time: 7:05 Meeting End: 8:28

Attending:

Dr. Cronin
Jay Hubelbank
Scott Baider, Chair
Deborah Corsico
Gary Suslavich
Scott Baider

1. Out of State/Country Field Trip Approval

Dr. Cronin discussed three field trips that will need BOE approval. They include VA, Quebec and Toronto. The committee will recommend authorizing the trips and make a motion at the next BOE meeting.

2. 10-47C Regionalization Amendment Study Questions Related to the Planning Committee

It was indicated by Mr. Baider, as with the prior Planning Committee meeting that public comment was to be allowed throughout the meeting.

The committee reviewed several documents that were prepared by Dr. Cronin that addressed topics identified at the prior meeting. The documents (see attached) covered the following:

1. Scheduling specials, gym, lunch, etc.
2. Scheduling field trips and enrichment
Additional discussion: Dr. Cronin indicated that he reduced field trips to align with curriculum objectives and this would be the case in either configuration. Need to look at scheduling for Strings program (3rd grade) and Chorus (4th and 5th) in a k-5 configuration.
3. Special Education programs
4. Professional development
5. Ability to comply with new state graduation requirements
Additional discussion: Either K-5 configuration would not impact the new graduation requirements. On a separate note, Lori Ferreira indicated that the new requirements will require additional staffing.
6. Full day kindergarten

Additional discussion: Mr. Baider stated that it was the intention to maintain full day kindergarten, and that the Facilities Committee is looking at space and enrollment.

7. Start times and school day detail by school

Additional discussion: There was a significant amount of discussion related to the proper way to show school start/end and amount of instructional time. The discussion also touched on how the school day would be structured in a K-5, in the event that bus schedules would allow for adding time to the school day. Comments were made by many from the committee and public on the use of available time, however Mr. Baider and Mr. Suslavich said that decision would be made by the administrators. Principals Jones and Ferreira questioned the value of adding minutes to the school day if possible.

Dr. Cronin indicated that he was still working on compiling CMT and testing data to present to the committee. Discussion on this issue included what information should be included in addition to CMT's. As well, Linda Bulvanoski (as member of the public) suggested that the timing of implementation of instructional programs is important to note.

Other comments and discussion from the committee members and public included:

- Potential teacher's contract issues, if any change to school day (requires follow up)
- It was stated by Scott Baider, that he and Dr. Cronin discussed surveying of teachers regarding reconfiguration. Dr. Cronin will consider how a survey could be designed to provide feedback that would help voters understand the merits of one configuration vs. the other.

**Regional School District 14
Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury**

**Planning Committee
Configuration Impact Study
September 15, 2010**

I. Class and Instructional Time – 2006-2007

School	Starting and Ending Times	Length of School Day
Bethlehem Elementary School	8:55 am – 3:25 pm	6 hours 30 minutes
Mitchell Elementary School	8:55 am – 3:25 pm	6 hours 30 minutes
Woodbury Middle School	7:33 am – 2:18 pm	6 hours 45 minutes
Nonnewaug High School	7:34 am – 2:28 pm	6 hours 54 minutes

II. Class Instructional Time – 2010 – 2011

School	Starting and Ending Times	Length of School Day
Bethlehem Elementary School	8:20 am – 2:50 pm	6 hours 30 minutes
Mitchell Elementary School	9:05 am – 3:35 pm	6 hours 30 minutes
Woodbury Middle School	7:24 am – 1:59 pm	6 hours 35 minutes
Nonnewaug High School	7:24 am – 1:59 pm	6 hours 35 minutes

Scheduling Specials: gym, lunch, etc.

Moving back to a K-5 structure at both Bethlehem and Mitchell, we would first need to know how many additional classrooms, if any, we will have in each building. The number of special area teachers is dependent upon the number of classrooms that need to be scheduled. This is also true of art, music, technology, and library/media.

In both configurations the lunch block would remain the same – one-half hour for lunch and one-half hour for recess at every grade level.

Scheduling Field Trips and Enrichment

There is no problem scheduling field trips for either configuration. I would hope that you will want to make certain that all students, at all grade levels, have a common experience related to the curriculum.

Enrichment poses more of a challenge. There are before and/or after school programs in Bethlehem and Woodbury. We would want to replicate the programs in each K-5 school or consider bussing students from one building to another. For example, second grade students participate in "Odyssey of the Mind." Currently, all second graders are eligible to participate. If we go back to two K-5 schools in Region 14 I would suggest either offering the enrichment program at both schools, cancelling the program, or transporting students from one building to another at the end of the school day. Other programs presenting similar challenges are the new strings program for third graders and chorus for fourth and fifth graders.

Special Education Programs

The Board of Education will need to decide if common programs will be offered at each school in a K-5 configuration or if some special education students will be bussed to one of the two schools. This is especially true for students assigned to "high needs" programs. *2 Rooms Needed in each school*

Other special education services will be provided in both schools. These include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language, school psychology, school social work services and resource room teachers.

Professional Development

Currently, teachers take part in professional development on a daily basis during grade level team meetings. Over the course of the school year they receive approximately 30-35 additional hours of professional development in language arts and an additional 15-20 hours in math and technology. I'm not certain if there will be enough personnel to supervise recesses, which is when the grade-level teams currently meet. Certainly the goal would be for this work to continue. In a K-5 structure, we will also need to make certain teachers in both schools are having the same professional development opportunities.

Ability to Comply with New State Graduation Requirements

In looking over the new requirements, Region 14 students should be able to meet the expectations within their current schedule. Currently there are 8 periods in a day allowing students to acquire the additional 5 credits that will be required. The other expectations relate to work they must do and benchmarks they must meet by the end of 12th grade. The high school administration believes the district will be able to comply with new state graduation requirements under its current time frame. There is enough time in the day.

Is it possible for full day kindergarten to be held in both schools?

If we return to a K-5 structure, space is available in Bethlehem, but finding enough classroom space at Mitchell will be a challenge.

NONNEWAUG HIGH SCHOOL

2006/2007 BELL SCHEDULE

8 PERIOD DAY

PERIOD A	7:34 – 8:21	47 MINUTES
PERIOD B	8:26 – 9:15	49 MINUTES
PERIOD C	9:20 – 10:07	47 MINUTES
PERIOD D	10:12 – 10:34	22 MINUTES
PERIOD E	10:38 – 11:00	22 MINUTES
PERIOD F	11:04 – 11:26	22 MINUTES
PERIOD G	11:30 – 11:52	22 MINUTES
PERIOD H	11:56 – 12:18	22 MINUTES
PERIOD I	12:22 – 12:44	22 MINUTES
PERIOD J	12:49 – 1:36	47 MINUTES
PERIOD K	1:41 – 2:28	47 MINUTES
Total Instructional Time		369 MINUTES

NONNEWAUG HIGH SCHOOL

2010-2011 BELL SCHEDULE

8 PERIOD DAY

PERIOD 1	7:24 – 8:09	45 MINUTES
PERIOD 2	8:14 – 9:01	47 MINUTES
PERIOD 3	9:06 – 9:51	45 MINUTES
PERIOD 4	9:56 – 10:41	45 MINUTES
PERIOD 5	10:46 – 11:31	45 MINUTES
PERIOD 6	11:36 – 12:21	45 MINUTES
PERIOD 7	12:25 – 1:10	45 MINUTES
PERIOD 8	1:14 – 1:59	45 MINUTES
Total Instructional Time		362 MINUTES

WOODBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL TIMES

	2005 – 2006 School Year	2010 – 2011 School Year
Start / End Times	7:33 – 2:18	7:24 – 1:59
Homeroom Time	5 minutes	7 minutes
Instructional Time	311 minutes	336 minutes
Flex Time	45 Minutes – Study Hall for most students, some received help with homework from a teacher	
Lunch Time	30 minutes	25 minutes
Passing Time	14 minutes	27 minutes
Total Daily Minutes	6 hours 45 minutes 405 Minutes	6 hours 35 minutes 395 Minutes