

A.R.E.A. Board for Grades 7 and 8, and Grades 9 through 12
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 7, 2010 – 7:00 PM
Large Group Instruction Area
Keene High School, 43 Arch Street
Keene, NH

School Boards Present:	<u>Chesterfield</u>	Judy Idelkope Deb Clemente
	<u>Harrisville</u>	Earl Horn
	<u>Keene</u>	Carl Panza
	<u>Marlborough</u>	Kristin Hill
	<u>Marlow</u>	Stephanie Ricker
	<u>Nelson</u>	Kelly French
	<u>Stoddard</u>	Marcia Kayser
	<u>Westmoreland</u>	Mike Acerno Debra Hunter

Administration Present:

Wayne Woolridge, Co-Supt., SAU 29
William Gurney, Co-Supt., SAU 29
Alan Chmiel, Keene High School Principal
Dotty Frazier, Keene Middle School Principal

1. Introductions

Wayne Woolridge called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Introductions were made by members of the 8 boards in attendance as well as the administrators present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Woolridge entertained a motion to approve the minutes of 10/19/09.

MOTION: Ms. Kelly French made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/19/09. Mr. Carl Panza seconded the motion. By a unanimous voice vote the minutes of 10/19/09 were approved.

3. Keene Middle School: *Dotty Frazier, Principal*

a. Using Data to Drive Instructional Practices

- Distributed packet containing chart from the NH Department of Education site visit representing the complexities of Keene Middle School. The state considers KMS to be the most complicated middle school in the state of New Hampshire.
- Data team timeline included in packet. KMS has a very active, well-trained data team in place. All decisions regarding students are made based on data collected regarding academic performance.

b. Differentiating Instruction

- Distributed update on Gifted/Talented Instructional Practices at KMS.
- New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) hired to work with KMS staff on meeting the needs of all learners.

c. Progress on Math SINI (School in Need of Improvement) Plan

- Distributed timeline representing progress made since July 2009 regarding the SINI plan.
- Staff working on determining best practices for students achieving 2-3 years below grade level in math.
- Acquiring programs and proven math strategies available in the marketplace.

d. Instructional Leadership Team

- Consists of 13 staff members.
- Team works to keep initiatives on the forefront

e. Web Page Preview

- Mrs. Frazier gave a brief tour of the Keene Middle School Website (<http://www.kms.keene.k12.nh.us/>) showing links for parents and students.

f. Renzulli Learning Systems

- KMS has invested in the Renzulli Learning System, an Internet-based learning tool to work on extended learning opportunities.
- Through the Renzulli system each student will complete a learning profile.
- Through the system, students have access to approved websites that augment student learning and are standards-based.
- Link to Renzulli Learning via the main page of the Keene Middle School site or (www.RenzulliLearning.com).

g. National Junior Honor Society

- 23 seventh and eighth grade students were inducted into the NJHS on April 29 at a special ceremony held at Papagallo's Restaurant.

- New program added this school year, mirrors the high school honor society program.

h. New Keene Middle School

- 8th grade students participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.
- Next year the building project will be tied in to the curriculum.
- Preparations to bid farewell to the current building will take place throughout next school year.

Questions –

Marcia Kayser (Stoddard) asked about the Renzulli Learning System and how the process has worked thus far at KMS.

Mrs. Frazier commented that the program has been very helpful and that reluctant learners in particular have done very well. The profiles help staff better understand their students. Mrs. Frazier further shared that they are exploring a variety of different options to meet the needs of all learners including using Virtual Learning Academy.

Mrs. Frazier also noted that the NH Department of Education site visit report will be posted on the KMS web page. KMS was one of five schools in SAU 29 selected for a site visit as part of Senate Bill 180 (Marlow, Chesterfield, Fuller and KHS also selected).

4. Keene High School: *Alan Chmiel, Principal*

a. North Campus Update

- Currently 36 students attend North Campus, 22 of whom attend KHS for one, two, or three blocks per day.
- Three students returned full-time to KHS for the start of the 2010 spring semester.
- The building has held up exceptionally well, students are respectful of the new building and are taking care to maintain it.
- KHS staff put effort into transitioning North Campus staff and students so that all would feel comfortable as part of the KHS campus. This early legwork helped to make the transition a success.
- During the DOE site visit, Ed Murdough was pleased to learn of the change from TNT to North Campus.
- Alan spends 30-40 minutes per day in the North Campus building. Assistant Principal Alix Bond spends part of the morning and part of the afternoon in the North Campus building.
- Two staff positions open for 2010-2011 school year. Both positions will require special education certification as well as Highly Qualified Teacher status.
- Literacy has been deemed an ongoing challenge for North Campus students and will be addressed by hiring a reading teacher as well as a math teacher.

- The North Campus building recently won an EDDIE from the state for its design and function.

b. Virtual High School and Advance Placement Update 2009-2010:

- Projected number of seats for fall 2010-2011: 15
- Projected number of seats for spring 2010-2011: 11
- Number of seats behind the norm for KHS due to a software issue with Pearson
- Advance Placement: 237 tests taken 2009-2010 school year (142 students)

Chesterfield = 19
 Harrisville = 1
 Keene = 91
 Marlborough = 6
 Marlow = 1
 Nelson = 6
 Stoddard = 2
 Westmoreland = 10

- National Merit Scholar Program – This year five KHS students qualified as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholar qualifying test. (Keene = 3, Westmoreland = 1, Stoddard = 1)
- 1.5 million students took the test in October 2009, 50,000 students from the United States were named as commended students. The next cut will go to 35,000 students named as National Merit Scholar semi-finalists, with 16,000 of the 35,000 being named as National Merit Scholars in September-October of this school year.

c. Drop Out Rate Comparison

- 2008-2009: 31 dropouts reduced to 21 by GED/Adult Ed. Completers
 KHS percentage 1.4%, State percentage 1.7%
- 2009-2010: 30 students listed as dropouts. Does not include the student recovery that occurs during the 2010-2011 school year. (GED completers & Dual Enrollments).

West Chesterfield = 1
 Harrisville = 1
 Keene = 20
 Marlborough = 1
 Spofford = 1
 Westmoreland = 2
 Winchester = 4

d. State Report Card Visit

- March 25, 2010 visit conducted by Department of Education.
- Keene area schools were selected because it is the most complex arrangement in the state.

Highlights from the report:

- Curriculum coordination is a considerable challenge.
- The annual KHS reports given to each sending town is a best practice to be suggested to each host district throughout the state.
- The Cheshire Career Center is an important resource for the district.
- The World Language program is strong throughout the district.
- Visitation team concluded that the schools in Keene are providing the ten communities they serve with an outstanding educational opportunity that exceeds the minimum state requirements.
- The district needs a full-time director of technology.
- Needs to be better ICT planning between the middle and high schools.
- The KHS Parent Portal is an outstanding student/parent tool.
- Students can take classes at Keene State College, Running Start, Whole Program, Virtual High School and Adult Education.
- Strong collaborative effort between Adult Education and KHS Guidance Department to reduce drop outs.
- Transition from TNT to North Campus has been a tremendous success.
- The Professional Learning Community philosophy has a strong presence in the English, Math and Science departments.

Questions –

Judy Idelkope (Chesterfield) inquired as to whether or not KHS has felt an impact from MC² no longer being in place.

Mr. Chmiel stated that the majority of MC² students were from Monadnock Regional High School (SAU 38). KHS absorbed a few students under dual enrollment (students receive a 20-credit diploma as opposed to the 25-credit diploma received by KHS students).

Kelly French (Nelson) inquired about the Reverse 411 program and whether or not the high school has looked into using the program.

Mr. Woolridge responded that the program has been explored and though the cost is not significant, budget issues were encountered this year as the system was not a part of the original budgeting plan. The plan is to move forward with the program either as a whole SAU or by district.

Mr. Gurney further shared that the Keene School District has begun using Constant Contact, an email program that enables the district to send out email blasts to families and specific school groups.

Mr. Chmiel noted that the email blast was used to notify parents of the spring open house at the high school – the event was the most well attended open house in some time.

In closing, Mr. Chmiel noted that Keene High School graduation takes place Friday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m. with plans for an outdoor graduation provided the weather cooperates. The awards night is June 9 with many new scholarship donations to be announced.

MOTION: Ms. Kelly French moved to adjourn, Mr. Earl Horn seconded. A unanimous voice vote was in favor of adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Dieter
Stenographer*

APPROVED: 5/2/11