

Concord School District Board of Education
Board Work Session #6 – CHS & CRTC Enrollments
March 5, 2018

Board members Jennifer Patterson, *President*, Clint Cogswell, Tom Croteau, Chuck Crush, Nathan Fennessy, Liza Poinier, Maureen Redmond-Scura, Jim Richards, Pam Wicks

Administration: *Superintendent* Terri L. Forsten, *Assistant Superintendent* Donna Palley, *Business Administrator* Jack Dunn, *Director of Human Resources* Larry Prince

Board President Jennifer Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., noting that the Work Session would include discussion of CHS and CRTC enrollments. Superintendent Terri Forsten then reviewed the agenda items:

- Concord High School (CHS) enrollment
- Capital Region Technical Center (CRTC) enrollment
- CHS staffing changes

Superintendent Forsten began by reviewing CHS's enrollment trends for the past 10 years, noting a consistent decline. She reviewed the Board's class size guidelines, which are as follows:

The average class size objectives shall be:

ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten 17 14-17-20

Primary 21 18-21-24

Intermediate 25 22-25-28

If class size exceeds 20 students in kindergarten, 24 students in grades one through three, or 28 in grades four through six, educational consideration will be given to regrouping, employment of an aide or employment of an additional teacher.

SECONDARY

Secondary administrators will consider 30 students as a maximum class size and 15 as a minimum class size. Classes with student enrollment of less than 15 must have approval of the central administration.

Superintendent Forsten reviewed the high school course enrollment guidelines and process:

- Course requests are made in February 2018
- Requests may change between February and August 2018

- The projected staffing is confirmed before a draft schedule has been created
- Students might not be scheduled for all their requested courses
- Fewer sections leads to greater challenges in our work to meet student requests

She reviewed early CHS course enrollment projections, emphasizing that these are not final, as course registration is ongoing:

Art:

More: Intro to Digital Art; Photo 1, Ceramics 2

Less: Color and Design; Ceramics 1, Drawing & Painting, Metalwork & Jewelry, Advanced Art Seminar

Business:

More: Entrepreneurship

Less: Accounting, Money Management

English:

More: English 10; Journalism; Film Study

Less: English 9; English 11; Digital Production

Life Studies/Health/PE:

More: ROPE; Yoga;

Less: Health 2; Fitness Components; Intro to PE

Math:

More: Geometry; Adv. Algebra 2; Calculus; AP Stats

Less: Algebra 1; Adv. Geometry; Adv. Pre-Calculus 1; Pre-Calculus 2

Science:

More: Freshwater Ecology; AP Biology; Anatomy and Physiology

Less: Human Psychology; Chemistry; Physics; AP Physics 2; AP Environmental Science

Special Education:

Caseload range 5 – 23 students; total of 254 students – 18 special education teachers

Social Studies:

More: Economics; US History; Street Law

Less: Geography & Cultures; Civics; Big History; AP American

World Languages:

More: French 3; German 4; Latin 3

Less: Spanish 2; Spanish 4; French 2; French 5; German 3

Nathan Fennessy asked whether the current year enrollment numbers were per semester or per school year; Superintendent Forsten responded that the current year numbers were per semester, while projections for next year reflect full year numbers.

Maureen Redmond-Scura asked if the lower English class enrollments simply reflected general class size, as these are required courses, and Superintendent Forsten responded that they do.

Superintendent Forsten highlighted special education, noting a caseload range of 5-23 students with a total of 254 students for 18 special education teachers.

She reviewed world language course registration and clarified that the language registration numbers reflected CHS numbers only and do not include middle school language enrollment numbers. Ms. Patterson asked about enrollment numbers for the new social studies courses; Superintendent Forsten noted that 57 students had registered for *American Popular Culture* and 31 students had registered for the *Social Movements – Power to the People* course. Ms. Patterson and Mr. Croteau expressed interest in receiving copies of the enrollment numbers. Superintendent Forsten explained that she and CHS Principal Tom Sica would be meeting this week to discuss more up-to-date numbers and that this information would be distributed to the Board when it is more complete and accurate. Mr. Fennessy asked about trends in world languages over the last 3-5 years, specifically interest in courses such as *Mandarin Chinese*. Superintendent Forsten responded that she would look at these numbers for the Board to review.

Superintendent Forsten reviewed CRTC enrollment trends for the past 10 years, noting that enrollment has been on the rise over the last several years, with 615 students currently enrolled. She explained that the eight sending schools are Bow, Hillsboro-Deering, Hopkinton, John Stark, Kearsarge, Merrimack Valley, Pembroke, and Pittsfield. Pam Wicks asked how students are divided among the technical centers and whether the assignments are based strictly on location or on other factors. Superintendent Forsten explained that there are a number of regional technical centers located around the state. The state reviewed student populations several years ago and divided district assignments accordingly. She added that, in the event a particular program was not offered at CRTC but is offered at another regional technical school, a student could apply to attend the center that offers their desired course. She provided an overview of early CRTC enrollments, noting that as the District has not yet received all sending schools' numbers, the numbers are not yet complete. She explained projected enrollment requests, enrollment target numbers, and differentials. She noted that overall enrollment was high, explaining that there is an application process for admission to these programs and that the District anticipates continued strong enrollment. She pointed out a lower enrollment in the Fire Science and EMT programs and explained that the District may pursue a combined program for these areas. Liza Poinier asked if students were able to make a second choice if their preferred course is full, and if Concord students are given preference. Superintendent Forsten responded that students could choose a backup option, but that she is not aware of Concord students receiving preference over students from other districts.

She reviewed CHS staffing changes, with a decrease of 2 teachers and 1 administrative assistant.

Superintendent Forsten noted the upcoming Public Hearings on March 7 at 5:30 pm at Broken Ground School in the Library-Media Center, and March 12 at 7:00 pm at Rundlett Middle School in the auxiliary gym center.

Superintendent Forsten stated that the Board would go forward with both Public Hearings as planned and that any rescheduling or postponement decision would be made the day of the hearings, pending weather.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:31 pm (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Fennessy).

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Redmond-Scura, *Secretary*