

Regional District #4 Board of Education

Special Meeting 23 January 2019

Minutes

Attendance: Trish Brookhart, Jane Cavanaugh, Dr Jennifer Clark, Dr Rick Daniels, DG Fitton, Mario Gioco (phone), Michelle Grow and Kate Sandmann

Administration: Dr Ruth Levy, Dr Kristina Martineau, Kim Allen and Mike Barile

This special meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Dr. Jennifer Clark

A motion was made by Rick Daniels and seconded by Michelle Grow to add public comment to the agenda. APPROVED 6-0.

Policy 6146(a) Graduation Requirements

Discussion took place regarding the reduction of the physical education budget graduation requirements.

A motion was made by DG Fitton and seconded by Jane Cavanaugh to approve the revisions, as attached. APPROVED (Yes – 6, No – 1 (Daniels)

Policy 6172.6 Virtual / Online Classes

A motion was made by DG Fitton and seconded by Michelle Grow to approve the revisions, as attached. APPROVED 7-0.

There being no further business, a motion was made by DG Fitton and seconded by Rick Daniels to adjourn this meeting. APPROVED 7-0.

This special meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Richard R. Daniels, Jr

Secretary BOE

Encl #1 (Region 4 Policy Only) - Revisions recommended for adoption by the Joint BOE Policy Committee (at the request of Principal Barile) are shown below

6146(a)

Instruction

Graduation Requirements

A student must earn a minimum of 25.5 credits to graduate from Valley Regional High School and must have met the credit distribution requirements. Students graduating from Valley Regional High School must also meet four performance standards in reading, writing, critical thinking and speaking/communication. Students earn 1.0 credit for a course that lasts all year, and 0.5 credit for a course that lasts a half year.

I. Credit Distribution Requirement:

The following credits must be earned by a Valley Regional High School student in order to graduate:

A. English:	4 credits
B. Mathematics:	3 credits
C. Science:	3 credits
D. Social Studies:	3 credits (including a half credit of civics)
E. Physical Education	2 1 credits
F. Health	.5 credit
G. Arts/Vocational Ed/ Technology Ed	1 credit
H. Summer Reading	.5 credit
I. Capstone Experience:	1 credit
J. Electives	25.5 credits
	25.5 credits

Transfers: Records of transfer students will be individually evaluated to determine the number of credits needed for graduation.

Adjustments to the above credit requirements will be made for the class of 2018 and 2019.

The courses which required additional credits for each class are noted below.

- 27.5 credits are required for class of 2018 (additions equal to .5 in Civics, and 1.5 for Electives)
- 26.5 credits are required for class of 2019 (additions equal to .5 in Civics, and .5 for Electives)

Distance Education

Policy for Virtual/Online Courses

The Regional School District 4 Board of Education provides a comprehensive educational program to the students of Chester, Deep River, and Essex. The Board believes that enrollment in virtual/online courses provide enrichment opportunities for the students of John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School when taken as a part of a comprehensive educational program. Virtual/online courses increase instructional flexibility while enhancing opportunities for academic rigor through Internet or Web-based methods. In addition, virtual/online courses may extend the curriculum by allowing students to take courses not currently offered or unique courses of special educational interest.

Students enrolled at John Winthrop Middle School or Valley Regional High School shall be allowed to enroll in virtual/online courses as part of a pre-approved educational program. In addition to regular classroom-based instruction, high school students may earn credit toward graduation through virtual/online courses. Approved virtual/online courses must be consistent with the mission of the district and aligned with academic standards.

1. Virtual High School

The Regional School District 4 Board of Education belongs to a Virtual High School consortium. Students, with the endorsement of their parent/guardian, may enroll in online courses through the Virtual High School consortium to augment and expand their educational program within John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School, so long as this program is available.

2. Other Institutions

Students, with the endorsement of their parent/guardian, may elect to enroll in virtual/online courses from institutions other than the Virtual High School consortium. This virtual/online course delivery must be from institutions accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

3. Procedures

The following procedures shall be followed for students to enroll in virtual/online courses, whether through Virtual High School or other institutions, as part of the school's educational program.

- A. Request - The student, parent/guardian, and/or faculty member shall provide at least twenty (20) school days advance written notice to the principal of the request for approval for student enrollment in a virtual/online course. The request shall include:
 - a. A course description, course objectives, performance criteria, the name of the sponsoring institution, and any other pertinent information
 - b. A statement of how the course enhances the students' overall educational program
- B. Review - A committee composed of the principal, school counselor, and the department coordinator in the area related to the specific request shall review the request in a timely manner. The committee shall consider the following:
 - a. Course content, rigor, assessment method, and its connection to the mission of the district
 - b. Student completion of any necessary pre-requisites
 - c. If deemed necessary, name of a Region 4 teacher willing to supervise the student

- d. Student maturation, readiness, and other related factors
- C. Notification - The administration shall notify the parent/guardian in writing of the committee's decision in a timely manner.
 - a. The notification shall be included in the student's record
 - b. If approved, the notification shall include expectations for course completion including student monitoring and expected completion date
- D. Record - The administration shall maintain a record of the completion of virtual/online courses in the student's record.
 - a. The school must receive an official record of the final grade in the virtual/online course
 - b. The final grade in the approved virtual/online course shall be recorded on the transcript of John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School students
 - c. The final grade in the approved virtual/online course shall be factored into the student's grade point average and class rank.

4. Limitations

The Regional School District 4 Board of Education believes enrollment in virtual/online courses, whether through Virtual High School or other institutions, provide enrichment opportunities for students when taken as a part of a comprehensive educational program. However, an important component of a comprehensive educational program includes the opportunity for substantial, personal, and timely interactions between staff and students and among students in academic and co-curricular settings. Therefore, the following limitations shall apply:

- A. John Winthrop Middle School students may enroll in a maximum of three (3) pre-approved virtual/online classes within the following guidelines:
 - a. No more than a total of two (2) courses may be taken in any combination of English, mathematics, science, or social studies
 - b. Virtual/online courses may be taken as elective courses
- B. Valley Regional High School students may earn a maximum of ~~three (3)~~ credits by successfully completing pre-approved virtual/online courses within the following guidelines:
 - a. No more than ~~two (2)~~ credit may be applied toward the required credits for graduation in any combination of English, mathematics, science, or social studies
 - b. Credit earned from virtual/online courses may be applied toward graduation requirements as elective credits

Student participation in virtual/online courses requires a high degree of maturity and ethical behavior. It is the expectation that students will demonstrate the maturity and ethical behavior necessary to protect their well-being and maximize their educational growth in any virtual/online course taken pursuant to this policy. The administration may withdraw students from virtual/online courses if they fail to demonstrate the necessary maturity or ethical behavior. In this event, the cost for the virtual/online course may be non-refundable. Furthermore, students enrolled in virtual/online courses must comply with all board policies, school rules, and/or student handbook regulations.

The cost for a virtual/online course provided through the Virtual High School consortium shall be borne by the District. The cost for a virtual/online course provided through other institutions shall be borne by the parent/guardian.

The administration shall periodically review student enrollment in virtual/online courses and the consistency of such courses with the mission of the district, instructional goals, and alignment with academic standards.

Virtual/online courses may serve as an option for students placed on extended homebound instruction.

Virtual/online courses may serve as an option for students expelled from the regular school setting, provided educational services are to be continued.

Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Superintendent or designee based on supporting psychological and/or educational evidence.

Legal reference: 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures.

Policy revised: February 29, 2011 Regional School District 4 Board of Education

Policy reviewed: January 25, 2012 (Joint BOE Policy Committee)