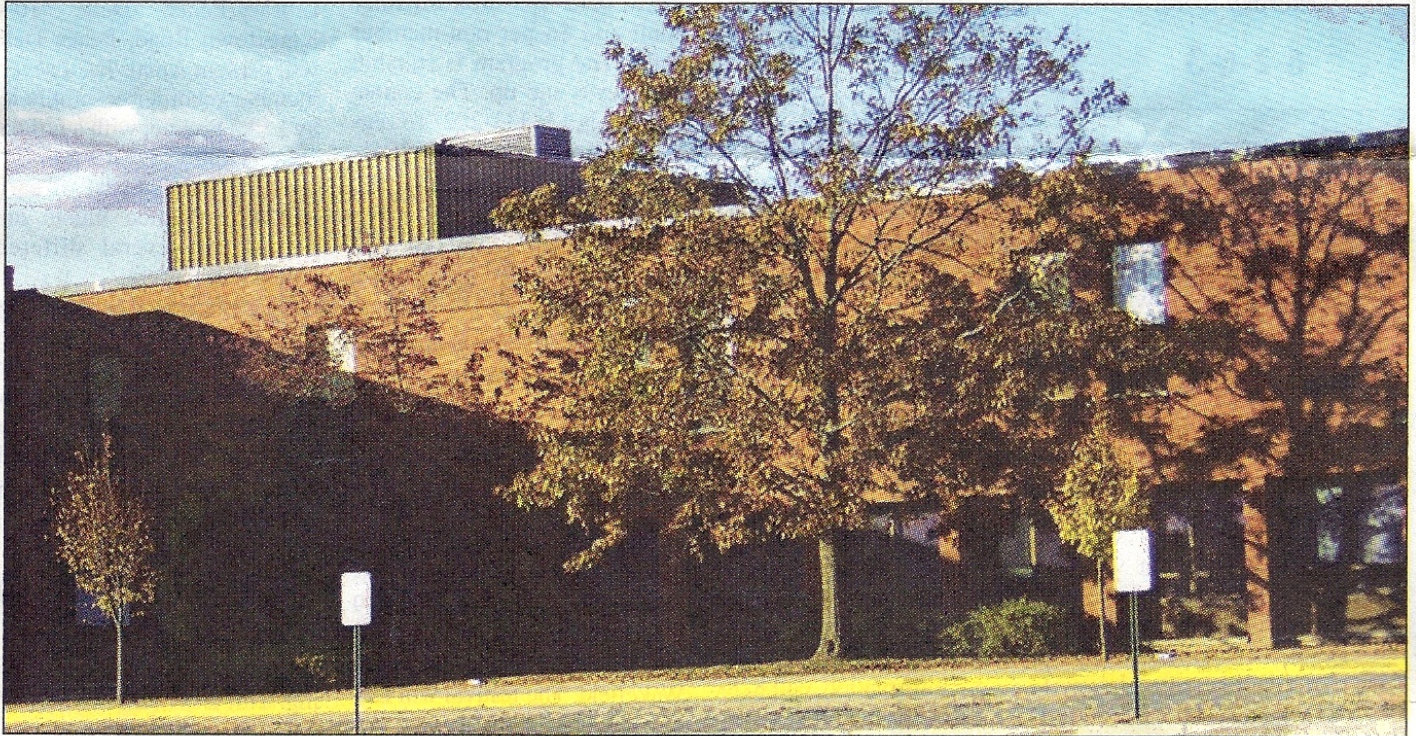


New plan for public schools throughout district drafted



Jessica Boisclair/Daily Times

Race to the Top initiatives brought about the new strategies that will take place throughout the Coventry school district. Improvements to instruction will focus on learning and achievement, among other things.

School Committee to look over plan that was drawn up to benefit school district

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COVENTRY- Superintendent Michael Convery presented the Coventry Public School's Strategic Plan draft to the school committee at their Nov. 22 meeting where he explained the changes that will be made throughout the school district.

He told the committee that he was not presenting this plan looking for approval, but that he wanted to give them an overview of what the draft requires.

Convery explained that his goal was to show the committee how this plan would be different from previous plans due to their commitment to Rhode Island's Race to the Top grant program.

He said that using their multiple committees they designed the plan in June and included all the mandated items Race to the Top required in the plan.

Convery explained to the committee that the reason this presentation has been delayed is because they were waiting on time lines from the Rhode Island Department of Educa-

tion to change.

These time lines give the school district dates on when the certain standards and plans should be met.

He explained that Race to the Top has five initiatives and that Coventry signed up for three of them.

The initiatives include standard and curriculum, construction and improvement, educator effectiveness, human capital development and school translation and innovation.

Convery said that Coventry made their own support sys-

tems on initiative three and five—educator effectiveness and school translation and innovation.

He explained that initiative five was designed primarily for the lower performing schools in the state and that he did not believe that Coventry needed this system.

He told the committee that these five initiatives connect with the seven core expectations suggested by the state.

One of the areas listed in the draft focuses on instructional improvement which refers

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Convery hopes for approval by end of January

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back to initiative two—construction and improvement.

This area incorporates core expectations one, two and seven—leads the focus on learning and achievement, guide the selection and implementation of curriculum/instruction and assessment and use information for planning and accountability.

Each area of the draft outlines the action taken to achieve this, the people responsible for getting it done, the time line of when it should be finished and the evidence shown that it was completed.

For example, under instructional improvement, one action listed is to “develop protocols/expectations regarding the use of formative assessments in daily instruction.”

The draft explains that the building administrators and curriculum coordinators are responsible for getting this completed by June 2012 and that written expectations should exist and be implemented.

Convery also explained that the plan the middle schools have used to revise their homework practices and policies will be used throughout all Coventry public schools.

He said that also included in the plan is to revise grading practices and policies that were started a year ago in the elementary schools.

He said that the middle schools have a pilot in process to begin this revision.

He explained to the committee that one of the items that were changed is the study of the standards the teachers have to partake in.

Teachers throughout the school district were recently required to sit through a six hour workshop on the new set of standards the state is using.

The curriculum council however, got permission from the state to break down the six hour study into three online courses for teachers and administrators.

This online course is currently in draft form and being worked on but once constructed it will give teachers a chance to

take the courses on their own time.

Other major core expectations that Convery discussed was engaging families and communities.

Coventry schools provide workshops and recently formed a drug abuse awareness forum, along with partnering with the police and fire departments.

He explained that one thing brought up in the draft plan was having one school safety plan throughout all seven school buildings.

He told the committee that every school is safe but that each one has a different safety plan.

He said that having one plan throughout all schools will help the first responders so they do not have to memorize seven different safety procedures.

Convery said that the plan presented was just a draft and that he would like the committee to look over it and give feedback but that he hopes for approval by the end of January.