

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAU #1 Office
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, NH 03458

Notice of Strategic Plan Public Forum

The Strategic Plan Committee will hold a meeting to share the ConVal Strategic Plan and gain input from the nine towns comprising the ConVal School District.

Please join us and enjoy hot soup, learn more about the plan, and provide valuable input.

Thursday, December 10th @ South Meadow School Library @ 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Dr. Minnihan opened the Public Forum at 6:30 p.m.

Pierce Rigrod shared the ConVal Strategic Plan Public Survey Results.

The Strategic Plan is designed to lay out a plan for the district and map out how to get there. Over eight-hundred people responded to the public survey.

Survey results reported that most respondents receive their information through print media, newspaper, and word of mouth. Ease of communication with the School Board was measured and found to be difficult and complicated for some. Over 71% of the respondents (a 10% response rate of the near 7,000 surveys mailed was the survey return rate) responded that they strongly agreed that having a local school in their community was important. Declining enrollment was addressed in the survey with questions related to how to address it. Soft borders, reducing staff in low enrollment schools, closing an elementary school or more, and closing one middle school were responses to address this issue.

Quality of academic areas in terms of strengths and weaknesses were surveyed. While foreign language and math opportunities were scored higher at the high school, they scored lower at the elementary and middle schools in part due to lack of program at the lower levels. Other measures surveyed included the importance of academic support in classrooms, career and school counseling, leadership skills, community involvement, effective communication, ConVal pride, attracting and retaining high quality personnel, infrastructure conditions (theatre/stages, grounds, science labs), importance of investing in specific areas in the future (science labs, computer labs, libraries, theatre/stages, playgrounds, athletic fields etc.)

Dr. Minnihan reported that there are three versions of the Strategic Plan – a 2 page synopsis, a 20 page version, and the full approximate 190 page plan. All information will soon be available online.

The ConVal Mission Statement was shared. The planning process included the data collection piece (steering committee, survey, public forums) and the Plan Development (establish goals, create actions, and public input).

Tim Iwanowicz reported that it was clear that the goals were driven by Student Achievement, culture and community, organizational structure, and operations. All were deemed as important to the district.

Beecher Clifton-Waite broke down goal one in detail.

Student Achievement & Performance – providing students with the best possible learning opportunity to prepare them for the world beyond ConVal. Providing teachers with the tools necessary to prepare students.

Culture and Community – promote collaboration between students, staff and community. Provide enhanced curricular opportunities through community partnerships, provide clear communications, and engage the community in determining and assessing goals.

Organizational Structure – provide multi-age as a philosophy rather than a financial solution for providing instruction, pursue the notion of a “ConVal” culture, provide educationally sound organization options to consider, develop a framework for school configuration options and use of “excess” space, and finalize plans for renovation of the high school to meet new curricular standards. Greater discussion took place about the philosophy of multi-age.

Tim Iwanowicz spoke about the need for consideration of various models. There has been much discussion about school configuration considerations. Further research on various models to determine which model best serves our students will take place. This work will begin in January. A question was asked about whether school start times would be a part of this study. Changing the high school schedule from block scheduling to a different format was discussed.

Operations – leadership (having the resources to support the mission and goal) personnel (hire, train, and retain highly qualified staff), and facilities and technology.

Additional plans that tie into the Strategic Plan include the Capital Plan, Technology Plan, Curriculum Renewal Cycle, and Professional Development Plan.

Work to be focused on in Year 1 was shared in the area of student achievement. The goal is to improve student learning and the way that students are taught. Recommitment to PLC’s is seen as valuable by staff.

Looking at the possibility of developing a strategy to deliver education in various ways was discussed; hybrid situations that might be beneficial to students in terms of competencies. VLACS and other options were cited. Other concepts might be investigated.

Leadership and Personnel Year 1 goals include the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Keene Cohort, develop procedures for community use of facilities, train administrators on hiring practices and more.

Facilities and Technology Year 1 goals include cross training facility staff, creating digital maps of networks, phones, implement building security policies and procedures, and the development of a set of technology competencies for both staff and students.

Observations and appreciation were shared for the work done toward the development of the Strategic Plan. Recognition of the draw on resources when a focus develops on topics such as consolidation and other focuses was discussed. Once proposed work toward changing and

reconfiguring the high school into clusters was discussed; the need for a bond would be part of that plan. Recognizing facility improvements in an environment of declining enrollment is challenging. The recognition of the importance of maintaining and strengthening quality on many fronts was shared as important.

Discussion took place about implementing an internal system that would allow the sharing of educational materials.

The Public Forum adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok