

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 21, 2016
7:00 p.m.
SAU #1

Minutes

Present: John Jordan, Scott Carbee, Gail Cromwell, John Robertson, Carl Newton, Tyler Ward, George Willard, Myron Steere, Jerome Wilson, Rich Cahoon, Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Pierce Rigrod (7:18)

1. Accept Minutes – December 3, 2015

Motion to accept the minutes of December 3, 2015. Gail Cromwell second. Unanimous.

2. Proposed Budget and Default Budget

Discussion took place about carrying the food service information under contracted services in the proposed budget. Gail Cromwell also shared that she was unhappy with the amount budgeted for fuel oil.

Scott Carbee said that anything can happen; you need to hold the line. Myron Steere said that the numbers that go into the budget may go into the reserves at the end of the year.

Gail Cromwell said that we have a flat budget and have lost fifty students. She asked why the budget hasn't decreased.

Dr. Minnihan said that the budget has been tapering down over a period of three years to almost a quarter of a million dollars. We have been addressing it. We have also been addressing our health care costs through working with the CVEA and Administrator groups. Great strides have been made to be responsible with the budget.

John Jordan said that in Hancock they are looking at going to a higher deductible and using setting up FSA's for staff. FSA's might be used for dental insurance and not carry dental at all.

Myron Steere reminded those present that we are receiving less revenue from the state as the enrollment declines.

John Jordan suggested a modified K-8 model. He proposed closing SMS, implementing K-8 at both PES and in Antrim. SMS could be repurposed in Peterborough. Discussion took place about encouraging revitalization.

Rich Cahoon cited a challenge in the small elementary schools with the class size. Adding more classrooms with six students in each class does not address the problem.

Scott Carbee said that something has to be done about homeschooling. Something should change in the legislature in terms of receiving aid for these students in adequacy.

Pierce Rigrod reminded those present that adequacy has not changed in a decade.

All present were encouraged to talk to their legislators.

Tyler Ward asked if there are a number of students who attend private schools. It was confirmed. Reasons include the back and forth in multiage from grade to grade, quality of education, religious, and personal reasons.

SAC agreed to take the budget information back to their towns and develop a recommendation.

3. Teacher's Contract

Rich Cahoon reported that the district needed a concession on health insurance. This is part of last year's three year contract with the exception of salary and health. Neither side could commit three years out, in part due to Healthcare Reform. Last year, in the first year, a merit based system was implemented in a flat based system. This year, the agreement is that several percent as a flat increase and less than 1.5% this year and slightly more than 1.5% next year. In exchange for the salary increases, a higher deductible insurance was agreed. We ended up with a very good contract. A higher deductible plan was agreed upon. Savings was used to insulate them with the deductible.

Discussion took place about ConVal's starting base salary which is less competitive. It makes it difficult to retain high quality faculty.

Gail Cromwell asked about the Administrator Agreement.

Rich Cahoon reported a flat increase and a merit pool. If an administrator is at the top of their range they would receive their raise in a stipend form and not compounded in their salary.

Percentage increases for the administrators was asked. Dr. Minnihan agreed to get information and share it.

4. Proposal to Shift Costs of Elementary Schools to Towns

The operational budget by school was shared.

Parents need to be on board with organizational configuration decisions. Pierce Rigrod said that if the savings was reinvested into more services, parents would feel that the quality of education was better. An example might be K-12 foreign language.

John Jordan said that there is a value having a school as part of the town community.

Myron Steere said that consolidation might allow full-time music, physical education, nursing in each school etc.

Rich Cahoon spoke about the terminology "may" vs. "shall" when determining school closure of SMS or GBS.

Dr. Minnihan said that SAC can join the standing committee on Strategic Plan Committee. Also, Peterborough will need a representation from each town for their withdrawal study.

5. Committee to Study District Configuration

Discussed within the conversation in agenda 4.

6. Students Interested in Becoming Involved in Town Activities

John Jordan reported that students recently attended a SAC meeting and expressed interest in becoming more involved in their towns. After March town meeting, John asked that other Select board members attend a meeting at CVHS to meet with students. It is important. Interest in conservation, recreation, and other areas were shared by the students. It would be great to have student involvement.

7. Other

Myron Steere asked John Jordan if he would be willing to publically state their (SAC) support of the budget if that become reality. Confirmed.

John Jordan referenced the Petition Warrant Article submitted. Discussion took place.

The next Selectmen's Advisory Committee was scheduled for February 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Gail Cromwell motioned to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok