

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 18, 2016
7:00 p.m.
SAU #1

Minutes

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

1. Accept Minutes – January 21, 2016

Gail Cromwell moved to accept the minutes of January 21, 2016. John Robertson second. Unanimous.

2. HB1375 – James Coffey, State Representative

James Coffey, NH State Representative, said that the problem with SB2 is the default budget and petition warrant articles. The intent of one bill was to have the Department of Revenue Administration figure out what the default bill should be; which was killed. This bill brings it back to the folks who have the problem. It allows you to have a charter for the default budget. ConVal could create a charter that says this is how we are going to handle the default. If the proposed budget didn't pass, you would also vote on the default. If the default didn't pass, the school board would present another budget and hammer it out.

The problem with SB2 is that it is one size fits all. It gets more people to vote. The downside is that you don't have the interaction you would have at a meeting.

Who would determine the charter? The charter would reflect the makeup of the district proportionately. Discussion took place about how ConVal is currently not proportionate. Who decides proportion? Who decides membership?

Carl Newton said that having a charter is not in the Articles of Agreement.

Representative Coffey said that the Charter Commission would create a method of how a budget would be adopted.

It is a short term, limited commission. They would develop a formula. They would modify the procedures for adoption of a budget. It has to be voted in.

What would be the mechanism to fix disagreements or different interpretations?

The biggest thing to do is to look at something like this and say that you have just had a tool put in your tool box and consider what you could do with it. Is there a better way to vote on the budget than currently exists?

Scott Carbee said that Selectmen's Advisory Committee (SAC) does this already. SAC is a filter and works alongside the School Board. SAC advises the school district on financial and other matters.

Representative Coffey said that the problem is, in large part, due to the failure of people to show up. This is an opportunity to create a new budgeting process.

Representative Coffey said that this came about as a result of complaints about the creation of the default. He doesn't hear complaints about the default in this area.

Pierce Rigrod said that no one has come to him in his three-year term asking or complaining about the default. Discussion took place about a default budget. What is a one-time expense? Are books a one-time expense if they are purchased every year, even if they are different books purchased?

Representative Coffey said that this bill was the best they could come up with given the information on defaults provided.

Petition Warrant Articles – district meeting can amend an article providing it stays on the subject matter. Myron Steere suggested that, should we get to a default, the Business Administrator come in and explain it.

Municipal Liability and assigning personal liability to every school personnel was discussed.

Scott Carbee asked Representative Coffey what can be done about state aid. Less and less money is coming down. As an example, the state funds kindergarten at half the rate for adequacy, yet students are full-time.

Pierce Rigrod spoke about Adequacy Aid remaining unchanged for a very long time. Discussion about what is a reasonable index is needed. We have been dealing with the elimination of building aid, state adequacy, and other aid in just recent years. What are the State Aid responsibilities for Adequacy Aid over time? We cannot go on like this. ConVal is a district that is spread out unlike cities with denser populations.

Representative Coffey agreed.

John Robertson said that we may be at the point that "The NH Way" is "In the Way".

3. Proposed Budget and Default Budget

John Jordan asked how each town voted on the ConVal Proposed Budget.

Barbara Miller reported that Peterborough voted not to support the ConVal proposed budget. Peterborough has a warrant article to study withdrawal from ConVal.

Gail Cromwell reported that Temple does not support the proposed budget. Not enough attention has been made to cut the budget.

Scott Carbee reported that he did not get a second on his motion in Frankestown to talk about the proposed ConVal budget. Scott reported that he supports both the ConVal budget and the teacher's contract.

John Jordan reported that Hancock voted not to support the ConVal budget.

Carl Newton reported that Sharon was split.

John Robertson reported that Antrim voted to support the proposed budget.

Four were in favor, two opposed.

4. Teacher's Contract

Barbara Miller reported that Peterborough voted to support the teacher's contract.

Gail Cromwell reported that Temple voted to support; okay with year one, year two bothersome. Budget should be reduced to absorb year two.

Frankestown supports the teacher's contract.

Hancock did not support the teacher's contract.
Antrim took no position on the teacher's contract.
Sharon supported the teacher's contract by narrow victory.

Gail Cromwell noted the additions to the Trust Funds on the warrant. She said that if the default was voted in and the trust funds voted down there would be an impact on district assessment.
Myron Steere noted needed work on science labs, roofs, and infrastructure work.
Pierce Rigrod said that high school students have a low proficiency in math. This budget addresses that if it passes. In addition, 40% of students do not go on to college. ATC Programs have a way to go to meet the needs of students who will fall into that 40%. We lost over \$1M from the State in revenue and have cut capital expenses and technology in this proposed budget. This budget is not inclusive of major items.
John Jordan said that replacement technology funds will be used to bump up the infrastructure to allow the district to move in a 1:1 initiative.

5. District Configuration

John Jordan said that he hopes there still is a role for discussion on district configuration.
Pierce Rigrod said that a Selectmen Representative is hoped to serve on the standing committee to look at this from many different perspectives.

6. Student Initiative

Tabled.

7. Other

John Jordan checked with Hancock's Fire Department about the Firefighter I program. It is good for the student's and the region.
Carl Newton said that dollar for dollar it is a good program.
Gail Cromwell said that she talked to Temple's Fire Chief. This will be overseen by the State. She said that it is a great idea. The problem is that if you have a drop in enrollment and you have 10-12 kids going into this you should cut somewhere else. Dr. Minnihan said that there have been cuts in various areas. Athletics, course offerings, and other areas were cited.
Scott Carbee said that Frankestown is ecstatic. One student has gone forward and is in Firefighting School now in Texas. This is a big leap. Scott said that he supports vocational technical education. This is a good way to grow the district. He would like to see CDL courses and other relevant offerings.

Gail Cromwell moved to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. John Robertson second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok