

# CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Annual Meeting ConVal High School School District Meeting Part I Saturday, February 6, 2016 10:00 a.m.

### MINUTES

#### Call to Order:

Moderator Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### Rules:

Moderator Clark informed those present only registered voters may speak unless those present decide otherwise. If so, the Moderator will recognize those wishing to speak. Those wishing to speak should raise their hands and identify their name and town before speaking. All speakers should address the Moderator. No conversation to others on the floor will be allowed. When you have the floor, address the topic at hand. Any voter may challenge a procedural ruling from the moderator by a simple majority.

When voting on articles, the moderator will not accept motions to call the question until all have expressed their views. In SB 2 meetings, articles may be amended but cannot be passed, defeated, or tabled. All will move on to the ballot. Only one reconsideration of an article will be recognized. Seven voters are required to challenge a vote. If the vote remains in question, we may proceed to paper vote.

Amendments to articles must be made in writing and read. Motions to increase or reduce spending articles should include specific dollar amounts and not percentages. The moderator will allow consideration on one amendment at a time. If citizens want to dispose of an article they should vote it down.

### WARRANT

#### The State of New Hampshire

To the Inhabitants of the Contoocook Valley School District consisting of the Towns of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the **ConVal High School** at 184 Hancock Rd., (Route 202 North) in Peterborough on the **sixth day of February** next at **10 o'clock in the morning** for the first session of the Annual School District Meeting, and you are further notified to meet at the following places in the Town of your residence:

Antrim	Antrim Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Bennington	Pierce Elementary School	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Dublin	Dublin Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Francestown	Francestown Town Office	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Greenfield	Greenfield Town Hall	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Hancock	Hancock Town Office	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Peterborough	Peterborough Town House	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sharon	Sharon Meeting House	11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Temple	Temple Town Hall	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

on the **eighth day of March** next for the second session of the Meeting (polls will be open for voting at the second session) to act upon the following subjects:

#### Article 01: Operating Budget-School District-SB2

Shall the Contoocook Valley Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$45,228,639? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$44,876,932, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Contoocook Valley Regional School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

**Myron Steere moved this article as read. Second.**

Myron Steere shared two issues; the school board operating budget is up \$55,000, however because revenues from adequacy aid and other sources have gone down, assessment is up \$1.154 million dollars. The School Board worked hard to keep this budget down. The lack of revenue that comes from the State has an impact.

The Moderator entertained questions and comments. There were none. The Moderator said that this will move on to the ballot in March.

#### **Article 02: Collective Bargaining Agreement**

To see if the Contoocook Valley Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the ConVal School Board and the ConVal Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2016-2017	\$167,531
2017-2018	\$647,778

and further to raise and appropriate \$167,531 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

**Rich Cahoon moved this article as read. Second.**

Rich Cahoon reported that the Contoocook Valley Education Association and the School Board negotiating committee have been meeting for nearly a year to negotiate the second and third years of the contract. Important to note is that the CVEA has agreed to make a significant concession on the health plan resulting in a savings of nearly a million dollars in exchange for salary increases for teachers and SSP's of 2.5% in 2016/2017, 2.25% in future two years. Paras will receive 3.0% raises for the next two years. In addition, a pool has been established for outstanding performance. Rich Cahoon said that it is a good agreement.

Hearing no further comment, the Moderator said that this article will move on to the ballot for voters in March.

#### **Article 03: Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended Collective Bargaining Unit**

Shall the Contoocook Valley Regional School District, if Article 2 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 2 cost items only? (Majority vote)

**Butch Estey moved this article as read. Second.**

Butch Estey said that this article entails, that should Article 2 be defeated at the polls, a special meeting could take place to deal further with the collective bargaining agreement.

Hearing no further comment, the Moderator said that this article will move on to the ballot for voters.

#### **Article 04: Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Contoocook Valley Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the Contoocook Valley Regional School District Building Capital Reserve Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2016 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2016. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article and RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

**Stephan Morrissey moved this article as read. Second.**

Stephan Morrissey said that this is a safety measure should funds be needed for unexpected major expenses that might arise.

Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot for voters.

#### **Article 05: Appropriate to Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Contoocook Valley Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June

30, 2016 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2016. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article and RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

**Richard Dunning moved this article as read. Second.**

Richard Dunning said that this allows the district to set aside funds for needs that may arise during the year. Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

**Article 06: Appropriate to Athletics/Co-Curricular Trust Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Contoocook Valley Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Athletics/Co-Curricular Fund as previously established under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c? This sum to come from June 30, 2016 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2016. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article and RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

**Pierce Rigrod moved this article as read. Second.**

Pierce Rigrod said that this supports athletic and co-curricular activity in the district. The Daniels Fund have been expended and this fund will allow activity to continue through the next budget cycle. Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

**Article 07: Appropriate to Health Insurance Maintenance Trust Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Contoocook Valley Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Health Insurance Maintenance Fund as previously established pursuant to the provisions of RSA 198:20-c? This sum to come from June 30, 2016 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2016. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article and RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

**Rich Cahoon moved this article as read. Second.**

Rich Cahoon reported that this funds health savings accounts that are a part of the collective bargaining agreement. Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

**Article 08: Appropriate to Special Education Trust Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Contoocook Valley Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Special Education Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2016 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2016. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article and RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

**Linda Quintanilha moved this article as read. Second.**

Linda Quintanilha reported that this fund is to cover unanticipated special education costs that may arise. Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

**Article 09: Accept Reports of Agents and Auditors**

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District accept the reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees, and Officers chosen?

**Janine Lesser moved this article as read. Second.**

Janine Lesser reported that this articles allows to accept reports from people elected. Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

**Article 10: School Board Salaries**

Shall the Contoocook Valley Regional School District appoint the salaries of the School Board and fix the compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as follows: School Board Chair, \$1500; each member, \$1000; Treasurer, \$2,500; Moderator, \$300? (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

**Janine Lesser moved this article as read. Second.**

Janine Lesser said that these are the same amounts that were appropriated last year. Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

## Article 11: Establish Performing Arts Center Trust Fund

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District 1) establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c to be known as the Performing Arts Center Funding Account, for the purpose of depositing privately donated gifts, legacies, and devises including gifts and donations from the Contoocook Valley Visual and Performing Arts Center (VPAC); 2) designate the Trustees of the Trust Funds of the Town of Peterborough as custodian of the Trust Funds and 3) designate the Contoocook Valley Regional School Board as agents to expend these Trust Funds? (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

### **Moved as read. Second.**

River Marmorstein, School Board Student Representative, said that this fund creates an expendable trust fund to be used to collect revenues to create a Visual Performing Arts center located at the high school.

Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

Butch Estey said that may it be resolved that the Contoocook Valley School District recognize Fiona Tibbetts for her years of dedicated service to the children and citizens of the ConVal community as a School Board member. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the records of this meeting and a copy sent to her.

Butch Estey further said that may it be resolved that the Contoocook Valley School District recognize Dr. Brendan Minnihan for his outstanding service as our Superintendent. He will be missed. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the records of this meeting and a copy sent to him.

## Article 12: Petitioned Article

In the interest of providing voters with an accurate and detailed assessment of the impact school closures have on communities, we are requesting that an impact study be required for any proposed school closure, consolidation or relocation. It is our opinion that school consolidation, closure or relocation has a substantial impact beyond just our school budget. It is our hope that voters are presented with honest information that assesses the impact such a measure would have on their property values, local businesses, traffic flow, law enforcement and most of all, on our children's futures. For these reasons, we are presenting the following amendment to the Conval School District Articles of Agreement for voter consideration.

To amend paragraph 5 of the Conval School District Articles of Agreement to read as follows:

5. The Contoocook Valley School District (ConVal) shall be responsible for grades one through twelve (1-12) and Kindergartens. Kindergartens were previously authorized by a vote at an annual Cooperative School District meeting. Grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be educated at the centrally located Senior High School in Peterborough. Grades five through eight (5-8) shall be educated at the Middle Schools in Antrim and Peterborough. Elementary Schools shall be maintained in Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, and Temple.

Any proposal, either petitioned, initiated by the school board, or administration considering school closures, consolidation and or relocation must be accompanied by a current, comprehensive and independent impact study that includes evaluating potential changes in property valuation, local business, traffic flow, traffic enforcement, student transportation, student participation in sports, extracurricular activities, class sizes, and community outreach. The impact study shall evaluate each township within the Contoocook Valley Regional School District separately and the final report will be made public at a minimum of three months prior to a public vote on the proposed closure, consolidation or relocation. The definition of "current" in terms of the independent impact study, shall mean a period of three years prior to a public vote. No school closure, consolidation, and or relocation will become effective unless two-thirds of the voters of the District voting shall vote in favor of adopting the measure. (SUBMITTED BY PETITION. The ConVal School Board DOES NOT RECOMMEND this article for adoption.) (2/3's Vote Required)

### **This article was moved for discussion.**

John Anderson, Antrim, said that this petition was not meant to promote or discourage school closure. It was meant to provide a process for school closure in our communities. Closures have unintended consequences. An impact study would help our community plan ahead. Proximity to a school impacts real estate. Local business benefit from local schools as well. Participation in afterschool activities drops significantly the further one lives from school. These activities promote academics, confidence and self-motivation. There is a complex relationship between schools and communities. An informed formal process is a better one.

Robert Edwards, Antrim, appreciates the spirit of the petition warrant article. The potential expense for conducting an

impact study on each community could be huge. Mr. Edwards asked what the process would be for the board when considering closing a school in a community.

**Second.**

Pierce Rigrod said that there would be a process to address many issues summarized in this article. Issues related to reorganization and consolidation will be discussed at length. It impacts communities and educational outcomes. The degree that the board interacts is expected to be highly visible. Communities would be met with individually.

Peter Burwin, Antrim, reported a sense of paralization by the board depending on the makeup of the board. He sees this petition eliminating the subjective loop holes currently in place. Whether you are for or opposed to consolidation, it puts a factual process in place. It is a sense of trust. Petition articles come across each year and communities wonder what is going to happen now. There are many ways to conduct an independent study; some that may not cost a lot. This petition will answer a lot of questions by the community and answer questions on how this will impact communities. Focus in the past has been on budget.

Stephan Morrissey, Frankestown, said that the way that the petition is written micro manages. Conversation on this matter has to change. Most petition articles for closure come from the communities. The Strategic Plan attempts to address the need of our students. The conversation should be about our students. We must be responsible and look at financial impacts. We look at the viability and educational process that our schools provide to our students to provide an excellent education. If a school drops down to 20 students, can we provide an excellent education K-4? What is our best for our students? Families have made decisions to educate their children outside of ConVal for various reasons. Mr. Morrissey said that he wants to bring those students back.

This article is provided for already. The board can do nothing without a 2/3's vote.

Richard Sanders, Peterborough, said that if he is going to vote on something that has a potential cost he would like to see the numbers.

David Martz, Temple, said that this article effectively eliminates the closing of schools in his opinion. It provides a very specific process and if not followed to the detail, lawsuits may prevail. A 2/3's vote is required regardless to close a school currently.

Janine Lesser, Peterborough, said that she is in favor of this article because too often the budget takes primary consideration and it drives the process of how schools should exist. She sees that as an attempt to slow the process down and look at what schools mean to communities. The Strategic Plan does a good job of walking through this process to assure that are children are well prepared to meet the demands coming.

John Anderson, Antrim, said that the petition sets out a procedure that is outside the current school board mandate. It does not limit, it expands the mandate. It is about informing the voters with accurate and honest information. The reported potential savings are estimated at \$1.4 million per year to close a school. The study is justified for this kind of savings.

Gib West, Peterborough, asked by definition of "current" it states that a study would be required that is no more than three years old; therefore a study would be required every three years.

John Anderson said that if a school closure is on the table a study will be required that is current within 3 years.

Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

**Article 13: School Board Members**

To choose Contoocook Valley School District Officers as follows: Six (6) Members of the School Board; one (1) from the Town of Antrim for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Dublin for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Hancock for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of one (1) year.

The Moderator read the article which identifies the School Board positions being filled in the ballot boxes on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

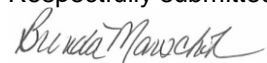
**Moved and Second.**

Hearing no further comment, the Moderator reported that this article will move on to the ballot in March.

The Moderator asked if there were any further business. There was none.

**Myron Steere moved to adjourn at 10:51 p.m. Second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Marschok