

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
Peterborough, New Hampshire**

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016**

**School Board**

**Meet & Greet w/ Contoocook Valley Education Association**

**6:30 P.M.**

**SAU Office**

**Present:** Patrick Cogan, Linda Compton, Marci Homan, Cathy Forrest, Laura Doell, Erik Rothhaus, Pam Murphy, Lori Groleau, Tom Kelly, Richard Dunning, Janine Lesser, Myron Steere, David Martz, Kimberly Saunders, Tim Markley

**1. Informal introductory meeting of the Contoocook Valley Education Association (CVEA) and ConVal School Board members**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the start of the Meet & Greet at 6:33 p.m.**

Patrick Cogan shared that he is looking for a way that the CVEA and the School Board can collaborate. Linda Compton and he are co-presidents of the CVEA. He shared that he and Linda went on a district tour to meet principals and other individuals at the start of their presidency.

Those present introduced themselves.

Patrick Cogan asked the board if they had any questions. He said that we are all here for the same purpose; educating children. He said that he would like the CVEA and Board to work together to pass the budget and the teacher's contract.

Tom Kelly said that students should be given an excellent education. It is better to have a partnership and work cooperatively.

Dick Dunning said that he wants to give back to the district. He works for what is best for kids. His decisions are based on that premise. Budget is a critical issue; lack of funding for mandates brought down from the state impacts decisions. It is important to make decisions based on what is intellectually in the best interest for students in the district.

Janine Lesser said that districts are facing very tough times. Funding from the state and declining enrollment are issues. The demographics from the state pressure the district. Her commitment is to the children but also to the communities.

David Martz said that he sat on the Negotiation Committee and feels that the relationship has been positive. A good foundation is in place for the future.

Patrick Cogan asked the board how they see the performance award folding out. Discussion took place about percentage increases and bonus possibilities. The Superintendent will determine how those monies are awarded.

Patrick Cogan said that input from the CVEA will be shared.

Tim Markley said that it is not fair to ask the board how this will roll out. They won't have input.

Criteria for rollout is due by a date certain in November.

*MISSION STATEMENT*

*The ConVal Regional School District, in partnership with its member communities, will inspire all learners to achieve academically, contribute to the global community, and thrive as independent and productive citizens.*

Patrick asked if a search committee will be developed for a permanent Superintendent and if so, can the CVEA assist.

Tim Markley shared the make-up of search committees. As an example, the AES/Pierce School committee was made up of teachers, SSP's, principals, a parent, etc.

An outside consultant firm was used to conduct outside recruiting while the committee narrowed and interviewed to make the hiring decisions in other Superintendent hires.

Lori Groleau asked if the same practice as in the past will be used or if different models are possible. Was the purpose of having an Interim-Superintendent so that a jump could take place in the search?

Myron Steere said that work will be done in the coming months.

Discussion took place about the different ways that searches have been conducting.

Linda Compton asked for input on the discussion that has been taking place about school start times. The discussion has been about starting elementary school earlier and middle and high school later.

Dick Dunning said that was the way it took place at one point in time. He has seen the difficulties for athletics, after-school jobs, academics etc. Some kids thrive in the morning, others in the afternoon, and others at night. That will always remain. Scheduling will be an issue regardless.

Kimberly Saunders spoke about a "Late Start Committee" who is looking at start times and researching the topic.

Eric Rothhaus asked who would ultimately make the decision on a change in start times. Myron Steere said that all of the committees would make a recommendation and the board would make an ultimate decision.

Discussion took place about the extension to the elementary school day. Laura Doell shared her appreciation for the time she now has to teach science and social studies. Ms. Doell said that she does not feel that elementary teachers have enough quality planning time in each day. She said that the Danielson Model cannot take place in a small school in the time she needs to effectively implement. She proposed implementing release time to allow teachers this planning and collaboration time with peers. PLC's are important but not possible in smaller schools.

Eric Rothhaus asked if there is a plan to collect data to determine if the extra half hour is helping kids. Will this be continuing?

Dick Dunning said that it is a structural issue. A release day once a month has minimal impact for a PLC. A facility of a limited number of students will not allow a PLC to work.

What data would be collected? If the question is "did the half hour allow the teaching of science and social studies?", the answer should be yes. The bigger question is, is the time truly being used to teach those subjects.

Lori Groleau spoke about the problem with configuration; she sees it as a big problem. Teachers not having the opportunity to collaborate with multiple peer teachers is problematic. She shared her historical perspective of when the district population was higher, the schools were built, and then the enrollment declined significantly.

Erick Rothhaus asked about hours vs. days for students. What does ConVal go by? Kimberly Saunders said that it is by policy; which states that students will attend 180 days. Unless there is crazy winter, hours can be used. Discussion took place. Policy IC speaks about the number of school days.

Patrick Cogan shared his appreciation of this time together tonight and hoped that conversations would continue moving forward.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok