

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Communication Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

5:00 p.m.

SAU #1

MINUTES

Committee Members:

- Thomas Kelly
- David Martz
- Pierce Rigrod
- Kristen Reilly
- Crista Salamy

Present: Kimberly Saunders, Marian Alese, Crista Salamy, Myron Steere, Pierce Rigrod, Kristen Reilly, Janine Lesser, David Martz (5:15 pm)

A. Call to order

Myron Steere called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

B. Election of Communications Chair

Pierce Rigrod nominated Crista Salamy as Communications Committee Chair. Kristen Reilly second. Motion carried.

A. Communication regarding potential Peterborough withdrawal

Pierce Rigrod reported that he met with Kimberly Saunders about the Strategic Plan and what could and could not be accomplished should a withdrawal occur. Out of that meeting, it was felt that a statement from the board should be developed.

The Strategic Plan has a goal on capital investments and culture. If this study begins, much of the Strategic Plan will be on hold. This is a six month process in addition to the DOE process. We are looking at a full year out. The focus might be on the implications to the educational system and staffing required to work on this study. The equity issues need emphasis. Is it about financial equity or educational equity? Mr. Rigrod said that a factual statement about the financial and educational equities and inequities might develop. If we are going to study a withdrawal we aren't going to do the Strategic Plan. They are two separate things. Consolidation is a much different conversation than withdrawal.

Marian Alese said that she has heard the argument that we would have to do this anyway if we studied reorganization.

Do we focus on the implications of going through a year-long process if we conduct a study?

Kimberly Saunders spoke about the factual information being shared.

Pierce Rigrod said that we need to share the factual process and stay out of the weeds. Capital improvement investments will be halted; science labs will not be replaced etc.

Janine Lesser said that she feels that this advanced because it is felt that the district is not dealing with declining enrollment. People don't have good information about what they pay.

Strategic Plan stands for:

- Capital Improvements
- Considerations for future configuration of the district
- Move to a more personal learning environment
- Process/Implications
- If the (Withdrawal) vote is approved, then major portions of the Strategic Plan will be delayed by at least by one (1) year.
- Curriculum improvements
- New Partnerships
- Equity: Financing the percentage of the budget each community has been responsible for has been relatively constant over “X” years.

Marian Alese said that this is about money and the perception that Peterborough is paying for small class sizes in other towns. There is already collateral damage as a result of this. She is unsure if the entire board all feels the same way on this topic.

David Martz said that the district as a whole should be promoted. The costs for Peterborough to breakout will be high.

Marian suggested using the jumping off point as why the ConVal School District was formed in the beginning. What would a \$30 million dollar bond cost? We cannot state a cost. Therefore, this committee should not focus on cost.

No certainty that other towns will tuition in, making it harder to finance educational/quality opportunities. Use the percentage funding example instead of the statement struck.

Staffing and Resource Allocation:

A statement about the budgeting process relative to what occurs when enrollment declines in a school; staff is reduced.

Kimberly said that she does not hear that there will be inequities. She cautioned not going in this direction. Managing educational resources to allocate them efficiently under the current organizational structure and enrollment level is a focus.

- B. Marian suggested going back to the reasons the ConVal School District was formed i.e. restate “The Forward” in ConVal Study Committee.
- C. Identifying Where the Warrant Article came from.
- D. What is the Strategic Plan? (in contrast to the withdrawal plan) and the implications (2 year delay with examples)
- E. Historical Budget
- F. Two paths to approach the problem – restate the problem statement.
- G. The board is committed to “X”.

Pierce Rigrod suggested a vote and added that parts of the bulleted list should be included.

Kimberly and Marian will work to draft a statement and send to this committee by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday (tomorrow). Feedback must be prompt by Friday at noon.

All of the documents shared tonight, with exception of counsel letter, should be posted on the CV website.

H. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II (If Required)

None.

Pierce Rigrod moved to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. Kristen Reilly second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Marschok