

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire
CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 23, 2016
7:00 p.m.
SAU #1

Minutes

Present: John Jordan, Kimberly Saunders, Pierce Rigrod, Bernd Foecking, Myron Steere, John Vance, Henry Kunhardt, Ed Juengst

John Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Accept Minutes of April 28, 2016 and May 26, 2016

Ed Juengst moved to accept the minutes of both April 28th and May 26, 2016. Henry Kunhardt second. Unanimous.

2. Strategic Plan and Reconfiguration

John Vance spoke about excess capacity in the schools. In particular, thinking about the assets that we have and using them for other purposes. Examples include after-hours adult education programs at ConVal High School. What are the essential transition courses between high school and college that could be a focus?

Connecting with a community college to teach advance courses at the high school was one thought.

Discussion took place about the top 5% of the student population, special education students, and a focus on those students in the middle. These students might consider tech programs; i.e. plumbing, heating, etc. We have to do a better job with technical opportunities.

A forward look is necessary to examine shifts in the economy.

Priorities for ConVal include examining the right mix of ATC programming and why.

Discussion took place about partnerships throughout the state with school districts to develop students who have a focus on specific areas such as computer programming and other areas that tie in with area universities.

What can towns do to attract people to this area? Cell phone coverage and internet coverage are areas that need growth to attract people to live in this area. People work from home more than ever before and connectivity is so important. New businesses depend on connectivity to grow their business.

Why don't the Selectmen get together from all of the towns and put out an RFP? A regional approach makes sense.

Mr. Jordan said that ConVal used to be a destination school district and it no longer is.

Pierce Rigrod said that the school district is operating at a high level. We have priorities developed; which include the configuration discussion, ATC Programming, and high school bond. Investments in technology and science are on the "to do" list.

Ed Juengst said that efficiencies need to be considered. Losing staff to other districts for higher pay is of concern. Schools with forty students draw on costs that might otherwise be used to pay teachers more money. A facilitator is important to keep the process moving forward in a productive and meaningful way.

Financials, education positives and challenges, and capital pieces are important topics for discussion. When looking at capacity in our different schools, it is important to consider the various unique agreements that exist with some of the schools.

Mr. Vance said that Brian Pickering is in a good position at the high school to offer post-secondary courses. He encouraged administration to give Mr. Pickering opportunities to expand offerings. In addition, Mr. Vance encouraged Selectmen to assist in any way in supporting the promotion of expanding high school opportunities.

3. Student Initiative for Internships and Volunteer Opportunities

John Jordan reported that he and Bob Edwards met with Mary Lou O'Neil to further student involvement opportunities with the towns.

4. Other

Selectmen's Advisory Committee will not be meeting in July.

John Vance spoke briefly about the importance of keeping the ConVal School District together. He further shared information on the *ConVal Community Dollars for Scholars* program and cited that this year, in excess of \$44,000 was awarded to ConVal students.

Ed Juengst spoke about the recent Peterborough town vote on examining the possibility of withdrawal. The vote was very close and those that developed the petition did not put in a lot of work. It is possible, down the road, that this will come up again. The expectation is that there will be some movement to alleviate some of the concerns such as re-examining the funding formula and other considerations.

Kimberly Saunders reminded those present that the towns look to the school district to address the funding formula while the district looks to Select Board to put pressure on Concord to address unfunded mandates and other downshifts in education.

Myron Steere reported that the ConVal School District budget has only risen approximately 1% in the past three years, but as a result of state funding, taxes have risen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

