

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

**Strategic Plan Committee**

SAU Office

Thursday, June 9, 2016

6:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

**School Board Committee Members:**

- Pierce Rigrod
- Rich Cahoon
- Richard Dunning
- Bernd Foecking
- Kristen Reilly

**Attendees: Pierce Rigrod, Marian Alese, Dick Dunning, Kimberly Saunders, Ed Juengst, Kristen Reilly, Bernd Foecking, John Jordan, Riley Young, Beecher Clifton-Waite**

**Absent: Rich Cahoon and Myron Steere in Negotiations**

**Meeting opened at 6:30**

**1. Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2016 (Committee Vote)** Dick Dunning moved to approved the minutes

**Seconded by Pierce, minutes accepted as written.**

**2. Review of May 19<sup>th</sup> Committee Report -**

**3. Initial proposal: Communications Consultant to develop District communications plan and Operations – Kimberly Saunders**

Pierce presented several other plans, from Epping and Kearsage; these plans are more detailed and apply measurements to the plan.

Scott Spradling, our consultant, will do what we ask him to; tailoring the plan to our needs. The more we ask of him, the higher the cost. Kimberly believes we can pay some of this fee with Grant monies, used as PD.

Pierce wants a systematic approach...how do we do that? Communicating electronically, this needs clarification...alert now, etc? Survey response from the public showed the Board received the lowest rating for communication. People want to know what we're doing (and they cannot always attend the meetings). This plan is a priority.

Marian thinks we need to answer some questions before we proceed: formal communication vs. tweets, videos, etc...what is our plan? Londonderry has a media/PR person. Marian is concerned about the ability to maintain the level of communication once we get started. We

have to be able to deliver. We need to construct a plan around the places where people go for information via media.

Dick asked about video recording, as the town of Peterborough does, and its success? Ed's response was interrupted by arrivals.

We won't know the fidelity of what we do until we know we can keep up with the lines of communication. Our consultant will tell us what our capabilities are.

Pierce: What are our priorities for communication? This is a district-wide plan, not just for the SAU/Board. We would like to have Scott attend our next meeting. We should take a look at some of the more detailed plans that are online (Kearsage, Epping, Londonderry).

Dick Dunning ask what is it that the communities want/need to know (that we're not providing)? We need to ask this question.

Londonderry's premise: People are made aware of what is happening in the school all the time, and not just a budget season. This provides a better understanding of budget requests. An awareness is what we need to provide. All information should be available daily.

Dick Dunning asked about schools that already send home information (to parents) and have websites. If you don't have kids in a school, you don't know the day-by-day happenings. How do we reach those people who are not directly connected to a school? Kristen would like to see more public meet-&-greet throughout the communities. In playgrounds, before Board meetings, etc. Our Board is very diverse. We need more informative conversations with the communities. Pierce agrees. We have held public forums in the past. We cannot development this plan in a box. We can provide information to the town Newsletters.

Bernd asked what kind of data we have available on the different groups we want to reach. Before we make a plan, we need to know our target audiences.

We have some information from our survey of last year, but we don't have the detailed information we need.

We will invite Scott to the July meeting. Pierce asked the committee to look at what is out there for information and to think about what we want to receive. Who are our audiences? What will we get out of the plan?

If Scott is not available in July, we will invite him to the August meeting? Pierce asked how long it might take for Scott to write a plan. Marian said about six months. Dick Dunning referenced John Vance from RiverMead, asking if several Peterborough members could meet there and ask residents those kind of questions. We can have a small cross section of guests to attend a meeting.

What about having our next meeting at RiverMead. Bernd asked about Scott's proposed Fee time.

#### **4. Configuration - Results of Fact Finding Since May 19<sup>th</sup> & Next Steps to Develop Options**

**(Soft to Hard configuration changes)** – Marian Alese asked how we lay out difference configuration options. What are the assumptions of the configurations?

Marian provided a brief history/summary of the District and various iterations of ConVal classrooms. Handouts were provided. We've had multiage, competences, Adult Ed, portfolios, etc. We should look at the history before we start to shake up what's in place.

There was a brief summary of various study groups that have existed over the years. An introduction from 2011, when Model Study group finished their work; what they looked at, their process. There were educational pieces that we might want to readdress now. There were recommendations to look at in the future. Eventually we ended up with the Model Study Committee in 2012, this committee did come up with options - see handout for different models, and estimated costs of each model.

In 2013 came the District Study Committee, not too much information on this...there was a change in Leadership. John Jordan asked about transportation; it was never modeled. What about the impact on communities. He felt the study needed to be broader.

In 50 years of history it is clear that the towns are very connected to their local schools. Kimberly asked if we truly need to look at this if we're going to move population around, there are people who do this as a profession. We would at least have all the information on cause and effect. We need to have a set of assumptions before we start the conversation. If closing is not an option, than those other exercises are a waste of money. What do we look at then...changing the funding formula?

We need a 2/3rds majority vote to change the Articles of Agreement; it is not going to happen. What about Alt schools – gradeless schools, K-8? Personal vs. personalized education. We did that in the 80's. Marian thinks it changed when the enrollment started to rise.

Kristen asked what Kimberly meant by multi-service schools: Adult Ed schools, more preschools, community college courses. It would be good for this committee to have some out-of-the-box vision. We need a facilitator. Pierce feels we need someone who will guide us.

**5. Primex Proposal / Scope of Work for Facilitation** – Kimberly Saunders/Marian Alese discussed that Primex is willing to facilitate several sessions to get us started, but other than that, it is beyond the scope of what they do. NHListens has volunteers who oversee discussions, but they are expensive.

What are our options? We need someone to direct the conversions. Kimberly would like to start with Primex (Tye) and after several meetings, see what the Board thinks.

Pierce asked how Kimberly/Marian think Tye will direct the conversations. The first session will identify the ground rules and ask questions. After each session, he would develop more questions until we reach the level we want. They will do three free sessions.

Marian referenced Nick Minolias, who worked with Primex, but is now retired. Marian would like to contact him. Ed asked if the facilitated session would involve the whole Board and could the Select Board attend. Pierce does not think that is a concern. Ed feels we need a lot more information to better understand the costs and issues involved (residents' concerns). We've been talking about this for some time, we need to move forward. We need to be on the same page and work cooperatively. Kimberly feels Tye would have the 1<sup>st</sup> session with the Board.

Pierce feels we need an internal conversation of what the School Board is looking for.

John Jordan feels we need to be careful and not be too restrictive. This needs to be an open forum. Selectmen's Advisory would be happy to be involved.

Pierce indicated we need to be inclusive of all stakeholders. This can be problematic with a large group. Not everyone would be able to participate.

We need more clarity on the process with Primex.

Marian feels the Board needs to come to a consensus on what they feel is the best configuration for ConVal. We know the schools are important to the individual towns. Where do we go from there? We know there is a percentage of residents in Peterborough who are not happy with the financial situation. These two issues need to be addressed.

Dick Dunning indicated we need to talk about whether we're going to close schools, or not. Until we resolve that issue, we will continue to kick this around.

If we're making assumptions about what is on and off the table, we need to come to some consensus.

**Motion to invite Tye Gagne to attend upcoming (clarified by Pierce)**

**Board meeting. Motioned by Dick Dunning, seconded by Bernd Foecking. Motion passed.**

Dick would like to have the Board and Selectmen involved.

John Jordan indicated the major goal of **SAC** is to let our residents know what the issues are, as well as the potential resolutions.

Marian will contact Tye for his availability over the next several months.

## **6. Clarification of Timelines in Plan & SAU Staff Responsibilities**

### **a. Summer Priorities to Complete Plan Items – Kimberly Saunders/Marian Alese**

A number of these tasks are over extended in the timelines.

Ms. Saunders reviewed Goal 1, which has gone to the Ed committee. Some goals were condensed, some were extended.

We received Ed Committee feedback on Goal 2. At the next meeting, Kimberly will bring a copy of the amended dates. Kimberly indicated one of the things identified was to readjust international baccalaureate to follow salaries and competencies. We need to make a decision on these two items. Ed Committee will bring the priorities to the Board.

Some responsibilities will change over the next few months, mainly with Kimberly, Ann Allwarden, and Marian. We are working with Admin Council and looking at how the District makes decisions.

We can report out in August at the Board retreat.

We will plan to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, except for July.

## **7. School Board Priorities (2016-17)**

### **a. Comments Received Since Last Meeting & Final Review – Kimberly Saunders**

The Retreat will focus on reconfiguration options, the high school renovation bond, the ATC programming, and partnerships.

Kimberly is looking for a motion to finalize priorities for next year.

Pierce asked if this committee should finalize the priorities list.

Motion to request that the Board adopt the recommended list of 16/17 priorities. **Dick Dunning motioned.** (He would like to see the priorities placed in a Rank order.) **Seconded by Kristen.**

**Motion passed.**

These will be presented at the August Board Retreat.

Kimberly would like to ask the Board to allow SAU Administration to prioritize the list.

Pierce asked for clarification from Dick; what does he mean by "Rank". Mr. Dunning explained.

**Motion to adjourn made at 7:53. Seconded by Kristen. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hills