

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Strategic Plan Committee
SAU Office/Boardroom

Thursday, September 8, 2016
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

School Board Committee Members:

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

Present: Pierce Rigrod, Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning (6:49 pm), Bernd Foecking, Kristen Reilly, John Jordan, Tim Iwanowicz, Kimberly Saunders, Dr. Ann Allwarden

Pierce Rigrod called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – August 11, 2016

Kristen Reilly moved to accept the minutes of August 11, 2016. Second. Bernd Foecking abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

2. Strategic Plan Update (K. Saunders)

Kimberly Saunders reported that all of the goals for 16/17 are aligned to the Strategic Plan. Kimberly and Ann are sharing a presentation with the individual schools and ultimately with the public.

Configuration is pending the facilitation process with the board. PACE tech assistance is being looked at carefully. The board is not considering a bond for this fiscal year but for the next. This will allow more time to prepare the case for proposing a bond.

3. Debrief - Board Retreat - Review Timelines for Facilitated Meetings, Analysis, etc.

Passed over.

4. Educational Equity - Vendors & Parameters to Consider (status) M. Alese

The proposals are due September 30th with a board review on October 4th and recommendation to follow. Four groups were solicited. If no one bids it would be revisited by the Board. The deadline could be expanded as well as the net thrown out in terms of how far the search goes out to prospective vendors.

Rich Cahoon said that this should go out to bid beyond the K-12 world and the deadline should be extended. Accounting firms and other corporate firms should be considered. The scope may be too broad.

Questions for consideration were discussed.

Another option for consideration was to hire temporary employees to do this work for a period. What is equitable and what is beneficial in the communities is being asked. If we consolidated, what would the up and down sides look like? Community support is important. Financial, educational, and specialty analysis is needed.

The financial analysis is to demonstrate the need for change.

Pushing the deadline to October 15th was suggested. Do we want to go out to the corporate world?

Motion to extend the deadline on the financial audit to October 15th and contact corporate and a wider field for a financial analysis bid. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Kimberly Saunders will reach out to her peers for information.

5. Configuration Vendor - Financial (RFP Due Sept 30) - Next Steps

The board should narrow the Primex activity. A clear direction on equity and finances must be apparent. Primex will be invited to the next earliest School Board meeting to discuss equity.

How will we lead people through prioritizing and weighing different factors?

Is there an educational inequity? Is there a financial inequity? Yes/No? How do we fix?

Are school closures off the table? We want to stay together as a district and not break apart but is closing a school an option? Discussion took place. Some felt that the question has been asked and answered. Is the funding equitable among the towns?

Educational benefits for children, when discussing potential school closure, must be identified.

If school closures are off the table, how do we answer the question to towns that feel that they are paying more than their fair share? Look at the financial analysis, educational equity analysis and options under a facilitated manner.

Are the kids getting what they need?

Things for consideration when determining equity are those things that the kids need. Staffing, credentials of staffing, where are experienced staff and looking across schools to see if resources are being used fairly.

Ann Allwarden agreed to bring a list of items that were looked at as part of a doctoral project she worked on when looking at an educational equity audit.

Rich Cahoon moved to extend the financial audit date out to November 1st (as opposed to the October 15th date earlier voted). Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

6. Facilitation Services - After Primex (Status) M.Alese

This discussion will wait until we are complete with Primex to determine direction.

Rich Cahoon asked for the project software report, including the tasks, to be shared with the board.

7. Hutter & School Bond - Tasks/Updates (M. Alese)

This item is on Tuesday's Budget & Property agenda.

Pierce Rigrod suggested that more information should be given when referencing a standard in the report. For example, when it states that it supports Standard H, a definition of the standard should be provided or referenced.

A menu of items for inclusion in the bond are needed before moving forward.
Clarifying what the district wants in terms of a bond and the high school that is easily explained is necessary to share with the public.
We need the educational justification and vision for changes first.

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok