

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 25, 2017

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

Minutes

Present: John Jordan, Ed Juengst, Gail Cromwell, John Robertson, Henry Kunhardt, Tom Kelly, Myron Steere, Bernd Foecking, Kimberly Saunders

1. Accept Minutes of January 19, 2017

Gail Cromwell moved to accept the minutes of January 29, 2017. Ed Juengst second. Unanimous.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Gail Cromwell nominated John Jordan as SAC Chair. John Robertson second. Unanimous.

Gail Cromwell nominated Ed Juengst as Vice Chair. Second. Unanimous.

3. Strategic Plan Update

Kimberly Saunders reported that there are four goals embedded in the plan: Student learning, systems and culture, staffing, the business office and HR. Under each goal there are a number of tasks and sub tasks. After one full year of Strategic Plan implementation, each goal is partially complete. Each goal has had substantial accomplishments of which Kimberly highlighted.

4. Financial Equity Report

Gail Cromwell said that she is bothered by the concept of relative burden. The report went into cost per student at relevant schools. It concluded that no change in the funding formula was necessary.

Kimberly Saunders reported that the report was sent out for peer review and it was found that the methodology was sound and the findings were in line.

Gail said that cost per student is irrelevant. The number would change with enrollment. The cost in a particular school is dependent on the teachers in that school. Seasoned teachers cost more than newer teachers.

The conclusion that came out of this study was based on this.

Myron Steere said that the figures for cost per student were requested.

Gail said that relative burden did not have the weight that she felt it should in the report.

Kimberly said that the conclusion was around the fact that based on the mission of the district, there is no way to balance the mission to supply a set of students, as a district, with an adequate and solid education and change the formula in significant ways.

Gail further said that because different towns pay different rates it is difficult to get things passed.

Ed Juengst reviewed calculations comparing different funding formula options. It was clear to see “winners” and “losers” with each scenario.

Discussion took place about the impact that each scenario had on each town.

Mr. Juengst said that the other piece is looking at the education equity audit. It is premature because consolidation or reconfiguration still needs consideration. Consolidation might allow us to do more for our kids. There is more to be done before conclusions are drawn.

What is the impact on home values should an elementary school be closed?

What is the value of having foreign language at the elementary school level?

There are things that we are not doing for our students because of budget. We are trying to keep our level of service the same and cut costs.

5. Configuration Options

Kimberly Saunders reported that the administration has been tasked at looking at configuration options. Reconfiguration options are under development for consideration. Other options include consolidation models. What are the cost savings? What is the impact on towns? Administration will present to each other and arrive at those that are most educationally sound. These will be brought to the board at the end of June. A “status quo” option is among those being investigated i.e. what if we change nothing; what will it look like in five years? The “program” Six Sigma was briefly discussed; CTQ’s were defined. The school board is reflecting on the items listed and in the process of assigning weights.

6. High School Science Lab Renovations

Myron Steere reported that the science labs are under review and cost information is being sought. Budget & Property is working to identify how many labs are needed and how they will be funded. We have safety factors and accreditation issues. If it is put in a bond and the bond fails then no work on the labs can take place in that year.

7. Funding of Renovations

The district is considering using funds to cover the cost of the labs and other resources.

The board voted to return a certain amount of money to the taxpayers. That may be re-voted. The plan was to bond for this work, but through committee work, the thought is to fund it without going for a bond.

John Jordan shared his concern with the process. The taxpayers were presented with a budget which included certain commitments. There was nothing in the budget about labs; it was never voted by the legislative body. He was unsure how this work could take place absent that vote. Gail Cromwell agreed that fund balances could be used but not money promised back to the taxpayers.

Kimberly Saunders will call the DRA and town counsel. The difference between having “agents to expend” was discussed as a difference.

Henry Kunhardt said that the School Board are agents to expend out of capital reserve funds. The difference with the fund balance is that a town can carry it forward. The school board cannot carry that fund balance forward; it has to either be put into capital reserves or apply it to next year’s budget.

Discussion took place about the high school parking lot and how work took place there.

8. Other

ATC – an understanding of the program’s that we currently have and the way that each are funded was outlined. What new programming would best suit students for the regions and were of high growth that would result in providing a livable wage should be considered. Electricians and a Plumbing and Water Supply Services are two programs under investigation.

Completer status for programs requires enrollment for both junior and senior year. Dual enrollment in both high school and college coursework is possible to gain credits. This is different from a two year completer program. The goal of CTE is to develop competencies so that students enter the work place with a set of skills right out of high school.

Nashua Community College is entertaining opening a branch in Peterborough.

Gail said that it might be more viable to send students to a community college rather than create our own program in house.

Running Start classes were defined as a class, where if the teacher is properly credentialed, can earn a student transferable college credits.

Motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

