

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

SAU Office

7:00 p.m.

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning,
Jim Fredrickson, Bernd Foecking,
Janine Lesser, Stephan Morrissey,
Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly,
Pierce Rigrod, Crista Salamy,
Myron Steere, Jerome Wilson

ADMINISTRATION

Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Tim Markley, H.R.
Mindy Ryan, B.A.
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.
Helena Bates, PES
Amy Janoch, HES
Stephanie Syre-Hager, AES/Pierce

Lily Denehy, Student Rep.
John Jordan, SAC

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Myron Steere called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Accept School Board Meeting Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. September 5, 2017 (Retreat)

Stephan Morrissey moved to approve the minutes of September 5, 2017. Dick Dunning second.

Pierce Rigrod moved to strike the sentence on page 2 that reads "This model leverages the students in the district." Second. Unanimous as amended.

b. September 5, 2017 (Business Meeting)

Stephan Morrissey moved to approve the minutes of September 5, 2017. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

3. Fill the Void – Presentation

Bob Edwards thanked the board and administration to allow them to come and update on *Fill the Void*.

Rob Eichler said that a physical plan, of the size anticipated, would fit in the void area and could be supported in that space. The NH Charitable Foundation conducted a philanthropy study on the proposed project. This project was found to be a powerful and inspiring one. People are positive and feel that this project should and could happen. The goal is to raise \$11.5 million. Key questions include "Is VPAC Widely and Well Known?" "Is ConVal's Excellence Important to the Region's Health? How Important?" "Do Arts Matter for ConVal Excellence?", "Is the Case for Giving Persuasive?", and "is \$11.5 million possible?". The study resulted in bringing forward that the "Fill the Void" and "VPAC" message is confusing; some don't know what it is or means. As a result, an arts forum will be convening. Considering whether this project is persuasive or not; 33% felt that it was while 27% felt that it was not. Sitting in the middle of that is 40% who felt that it was, but.... The volunteer capacity should be expanded to include future ConVal parents, arts enthusiasts, collaborating arts, and a development committee.

A recommendation is a 2017 Development Shift to include community presentations and mailings, to personal connections and relationships. The message needs to be retuned. Research will be underway to include different functionality to attract other resources. A professional feasibility study will be forthcoming so that prospective donors will understand the project and the commitment behind it.

MISSION STATEMENT

The ConVal Regional School District, in partnership with its member communities, will inspire all learners to achieve academically, contribute to the global community, and thrive as independent and productive citizens.

Announcements before middle and high school performances will be sought to increase the understanding and familiarity of the project.

During the question segment, questions were asked about the Park Theatre in Jaffrey and how this project is so close in proximity; is that a problem? This proposed project competes with other projects such as the Town House in Peterborough, The Peterborough Town Library, etc. It was not felt that it competed with the Park Theatre.

Rich Cahoon asked for confirmation that the understanding is that there would be a partnership between VPAC and the district in terms of operating, but that the building (construction) of the project was private. Is that still the same? Bob Edwards said that the building would be constructed through private funding. If it is found that only \$7M could be raised through private funding, an update would be provided to the board. Financial opportunities have not been exhausted yet.

Rich Cahoon asked at what point you consider changing the number of seats or square footage. Bob said that the architects will fine tune and, through analysis, determine exact seating capacity and square footage. Rob Eichler reaffirmed that the look might change but proximity, music and good sound quality will remain.

Stephan Morrissey asked if crowd funding is being considered. Rob said that it is being considered but would be considered for fill in dollars and not primary funding.

Rich Cahoon asked that the organization go through the Superintendent when wanting to communicate with the schools. An update would be due next in December 2017.

4. Points of Pride

Kimberly reported various Points of Pride as shared by administrators with her.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

- Retirements June 2019

Tim Markley referenced a revised personnel agenda.

Retirement of Cynthia Zawacki –

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the retirement as read. Dick Dunning Second. Unanimous.

Nomination of Michael Luow for Special Education Administrator.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the nomination of Michael Luow. Dick Dunning. Second.

The position is 260 days. This is a replacement position and not a new one.

Unanimous.

- Notice of Stipend Positions 2017-18

Tim Markley tabled the two Link positions. The remainder is informational.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Budget Prep Calendar – Deliberative Session was set for February 6th with a snow date of February 8th.

Strategic Plan will meet at 6:00 p.m. on October 12th with the ATC Committee meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Education Committee will meet on both October 2nd and October 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Monthly Topic List- Rich Cahoon spoke about laying out an annual schedule for specific topics. The reason for this is that we often do not give enough time to the topics presented. We need to allow enough time. He further suggested that these items be part of “new business” on the agenda. This is a living document that will evolve.

School Board request email address is the place to send items to be placed on this calendar.

An update on the rollout of the 1-1 initiative was shared.

b. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

- 1) Antrim Elementary School requests authorization to accept a gift/donation of \$500.00 from the TD Bank Employee Volunteer Donation Program for the purpose of supporting student activities.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the gift as read. Jerome Wilson second. Unanimous.

8. Reports

a. Student Representative – Lily Denehy

Lily Denehy reported that the high school held a fundraiser for Hurricane Harvey, specifically for the SPCA, and raised \$400. Miss Denehy reported out on Homecoming activities. Penny Wars is scheduled for next week. A college fair took place today at the high school.

Crista Salmay reported that the band went to the Big E and had to be at the Antrim Home and Harvest the following morning. They did a great job. AES had a 14 foot eagle in the parade; it was amazing and beautiful.

Dick Dunning said that he went to the Friday night football game. The Dance Team performed at half-time; the support from the student population was tremendous.

b. Teacher Representative – Patrick Cogan

Linda Compton reported that the CVEA will be meeting with *End 68 Hours of Hunger* program.

c. Education Committee – Crista Salmay

Linda Quintanilha said that discussion took place about the review of the science curriculum, grades 5-8. More time will be spent at each grade on specific topics i.e. earth science, physical science.

Crista Salmay said that a discussion took place on fees. The conversation is not over. Crista Salmay brought forward three fees that are asked to be covered by the district:

Crista Salmay recommended waiving athletic fees. The dollar figure is typically \$48,000. Linda Quintanilha second.

Crista Salmay said that the total, \$214,194.00, is being looked at. Tonight, curriculum day based field trips and school sponsored curriculum based fees are being asked for consideration.

Dick Dunning clarified that athletic fees are being asked to waive through the future. Confirmed.

Stephan Morrissey asked what is spent on athletics per year. Kimberly Saunders asked for specifics on what is being asked. Transportation? Stipends?

Stephan Morrissey moved to table this discussion to allow to look at all of the numbers.

Jim Fredrickson said that if we are going to vote on it tonight it would be nice to have information in front of us tonight. **Rich Cahoon second.**

Janine Lesser said that we originally spoke about fees and now we are asking for information on equipment and transportation. The intent was to make sure that all students had the opportunity to participate and not about cost.

In favor of tabling: 7

Opposed: 5

Motion carried.

Rich Cahoon said that thought was to have this resolved by the first week in October.

Jim Fredrickson said that this ties back to the monthly topic list; if a committee knows that a vote is forthcoming, information should be presented.

Kimberly Saunders asked about the other two topics in the event that there are further questions.

Crista Salmay said that curriculum based day field trips is recommended to be covered by the district. Examples include the Harris Center, Museum of Science etc.

Rich Cahoon asked if these recommendations are for this coming budget season. This year, fees would be paid for by students for these activities. It is for moving forward.

The other fee discussion is for school sponsored curriculum based fees i.e. AP Exam fees, NHDI, etc. Those activities that occur during the school day.

Stephan Morrissey asked if children are denied participation for any of these. AP totals approximately \$9K per year.

Pierce Rigrod asked for numbers for each of the three groups.

Crista Salmay added that the Education Committee has not looked at reward field trips, overnight field trips, and international field trips.

The board will wait until the next meeting until additional information is gathered.

Dick Dunning asked for clarification on field trips. His understanding is that the schools put field trips in their budgets, it is an allocation for field trips. Where are these other additional field trips coming from? He said that principals used to budget and those trips above and beyond were asked for fees paid by families.

The discussion surrounded equity.

Dick Dunning said that he does not understand how we could pay for every student to go on a field trip.

9. Old Business

a. 2nd Read Policy/Adoption (Board Vote Required)

- GBEF: Acceptable Use Policy: Staff
- JRA: Student Records, Privacy, Family and Adult Student Rights
- KD: Official School District Social Media Accounts, Websites, and Platforms Used for Public

Linda Quintanilha moved to adopt policies GBEF, JRA, and KD. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Linda Quintanilha moved to rescind policy JO. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

b. School Board Goals

Kimberly Saunders referenced three goal areas that were determined in September as she heard them. Goal Areas should include the ATC, the Communication Committee will work on a comprehensive communication plan, organizational structures that are educationally sound, equitable, and financially efficient will be developed. Janine Lesser asked when considering a Communication Plan is it for the board or for both the board and administration. Rich said that it is both, because administration is prevented from communicating in some areas.

c. Presentation on ConVal School District Fees

Discussed under the Education Committee meeting report out.

10. New Business

a. ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Update

Kimberly Saunders reported that this is the new “No Child Left Behind”. NH has submitted a plan to the USDOE. They have 120 days to review. It has a slight change in accountability. She highlighted the changes. Myron Steere requested that Kimberly determine how ConVal falls within the accountability indicators not needed until February. Information is available on the NHDOE on ESSA.

b. Press Release

Kimberly Saunders referenced a press release and asked the board if they still want it to go out. Stephan Morrissey said that it lacks an introduction. Janine said that “ConVal School District” should be part of the title. Rich said that a contact should be added. An invite to the Strategic Plan Committee meetings on the second Thursday of every month should be included. Option 1 is being researched in depth and Option 2 will be further reviewed by Strategic Planning. Dick Dunning said that clarification that both Option 1 and Option 2 are still on the table was asked. Confirmed. There are still two options that the board is considering. Jim Fredrickson said that we owe the community more than the addition in these minutes. This is big. **Rich Cahoon moved that the Board recognize that at its retreat, that the Superintendent was asked to further research configuration and refer consolidation to the Strategic Plan Committee. Pierce Rigrod second.** Stephan Morrissey said that the intent was to start the discussion. Pierce Rigrod said that he understands the motion to research but what about conversations about the questions? Jim said that this motion is different than the vote on a press release. **In favor: Unanimous.**

Press Release – **Linda Quintanilha moved to accept and release the press release. Stephan Morrissey second.** It will go to the individuals that will write the articles for the newspaper.

Dick confirmed that we will give this to the newspaper and they will write from it. Dick shared concern with having someone who was not at the meeting interpret it and report out on it at the newspaper.

Jim Fredrickson opposed. All else in favor. Motion carried.

c. Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Program Update

Kimberly Saunders reported that dollars were cut substantially from the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program and ConVal was not selected to receive monies. The cut was established by January 2017 claims.

Mindy Ryan said that because our schools no longer qualify, it was thought to replace snacks in both Antrim and Bennington. Can we continue in the remaining schools for approximately \$34,600.59?

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve up to \$40K. Pierce Rigrod second. Is it just snacks or is it integrated with lunch? It is snack only. It is an extra snack.

Rich Cahoon said that this program was relatively new to provide fresh fruits and veggies in addition to Free and Reduced Lunch. Funding got cut this year. We received our letter this summer. This is to backfill a federal funding cut. It is for elementary schools only.

Crista Salamy abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Approval of Manifests (2) (Board Vote Required)

Mindy Ryan certified that the manifests listed totaling \$1,163,876.80 and Payroll totaling \$2,403,933.30 have been reviewed by her and found to be proper charges against the Contoocook Valley School District for goods and/or services received and have been properly processed prior to their submittal to the School Board.

Stephan Morrissey moved to approve the manifests as read. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

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

- a. Negotiations**
- b. Personnel**
- c. Legal**

Motion to enter into Non-Public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 9:18 p.m. for matters of negotiations, personnel and legal. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Stephan Morrissey moved to exit non-public session at 10:05 p.m. Pierce Rigrod second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey moved to seal the minutes of non-public session as follows:

Seal minutes of negotiations for a period of two years.

Seal the minutes of personnel in perpetuity.

Seal the minutes of legal in perpetuity.

Unanimous.

Linda Quintanilha motioned to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok