

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 30, 2017

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

Minutes

Present: John Jordan (Hancock), Dale Gabel (Dublin), Ed Juengst (Peterborough), Gail Cromwell (Temple), Bob Marshall (Greenfield), John Robertson (Antrim), Henry Kunhardt (Francestown), Kevin Pobst (Francestown), Myron Steere (Greenfield)

1. Accept Minutes of October 26, 2017

Gail Cromwell moved to accept the minutes of October 26, 2017. John Robertson second. It was noted that Francestown resident, Keven Pobst was present. Unanimous.

2. 2018-2019 Budget

Myron Steere reported that funding has moved around. We no longer get reimbursement for adequacy. State money has declined. The budget is not up much, but the assessment is. We cannot control what the State is going to give us. We take on more of the retirement burden. It all impacts us. Discussion took place about shifts in funding i.e. gas tax and lottery funds.

The proposed school budget is up 1.5%.

Gail Cromwell said that there is a reduction of 55 students; it should affect costs.

Myron Steere agreed that it should affect us but the overhead is high; we have eleven buildings to maintain.

Gail Cromwell cited line 610 with a projected cost of \$825K. Why is this line going up? How much are these lines scrutinized?

What is the plan to do with buildings? Ed Juengst said that administrators presented solutions. Myron Steere said that the proposal to eliminate several elementary schools and expand the grades at the high school was presented. Gail Cromwell asked where that is going.

John Jordan spoke about the main cost of salaries and benefits and not the buildings having the most impact.

Myron Steere said that one of the issues in the smaller schools is the need for more teachers as a result of fewer students. One proposal resulted in a decline in staff upward of forty.

What are the long term effects on the towns and the real estate values should a school close?

Gail Cromwell made two requests – the first was to receive the full auditors report. She would like to receive a copy as well as other towns. The full auditors report should be placed on the school district website. Second, roughly a half million dollars has been added to trust fund accounts. Voters do not realize that when they fund these accounts that it cuts the return of money to the towns. Gail Cromwell asked how much money is needed in the trust funds. She would like to request that there be no additions to the trust funds this year.

Myron Steere said that money has been taken from these accounts to offset costs.

The Special Education trust fund has been frozen.

The Athletic/Co-Curricular fund has \$300,000; what is it used for?

John Jordan noted that football was never supposed to cost the taxpayer any money when originally instituted. Hockey was self-supported at one point.

A cost per sport was asked. Uniforms, equipment, transportation, stipends etc. should be included. Special detection helmets are proposed for all sports that require them.

Discussion took place about consideration for continuing such sports that pose this hazard.

Ed Juengst said that if the school board continues to believe that we need all of these schools, there should be a way to help offset the cost. There should be more forthcoming information about school costs. There is nothing on the website that is informational.

Ed Juengst said that towns who host a school with fewer than 50 students should pay 100% of the cost of that school. Peterborough is not going to put up with this much longer. The Strategic Planning issue with the schools does not have to go on forever. Ed Juengst said that it appears there is no appetite to propose school consolidation.

John Jordan said that an impact study would be needed.

Ed Juengst said that if voters knew the fact about costs and some of the information that is in the consolidation report they would be unhappy.

Kevin Pobst said that it is his understanding that a consolidation proposal be placed on the warrant in March 2019.

Discussion took place about the potential of towns withdrawing from the district.

Gail Cromwell said that the only real consolidation is to do something with the middle school.

Mr. Juengst said that leadership and information is needed.

John Jordan said that he would be interested in seeing how offsets would be done.

Ed Juengst suggested that the athletic trust not be funded this year.

Ed Juengst moved that SAC urgently recommend to school board that athletic/co-curricular trust fund not be increased. Gail Cromwell second. Unanimous.

Gail Cromwell moved to not add to the health maintenance trust fund this year. Ed Juengst second.

Myron Steere reported that the Guaranteed Maximum Rate (GMR) is 5.7% which was budgeted.

Bob Marshall abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

The Equipment Trust was instituted this year. Is \$200,000 adequate?

Gail Cromwell moved to not add to the Equipment trust fund in the coming year. Dale Gabel second.

Dale Gabel asked if the School Board has a goal in mind for the eventual size of this fund. Myron Steere said that a capital plan is in place. Dale said that Dublin has a similar fund with a cap, it is replenished with a cap. Myron said that kitchens need replacing down the road; numbers are not complete. More will be known.

Discussion took place about the high school parking lot and what would be needed to remedy it.

Myron Steere will work to get a full capital improvement plan copy to SAC.

Bob Marshall abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

Ed Juengst asked if the recommendations motioned tonight are not carried forward by the school board, can a note be made on the warrant.

Myron Steere suggested that SAC submit a report into the annual report.

Any new curriculums affecting the supply line? Some ATC program may affect this line.

3. CVHS Science Labs

Two chemistry labs will be renovated from the trust funds. Two labs will be renovated with a bond. \$1.7M for four labs including furniture. Myron said that an additional lab will be renovated through funding in a future year possibly. Determination of what is really needed is essential.

John Robertson moved to support the renovation of bringing the four labs up to date over time. Ed Juengst second. Unanimous.

Discussion took place about the projected enrollments for 2018-2019 and the class size. Why are teachers being added?

Myron Steere reported out on an HVAC line that blew at the high school which caused considerable flooding in a number of rooms.

4. Teachers' Contract

Myron Steere reported that we are in fact finding right now. It is unknown where it will go. Something will be on the ballot with a recommendation.

5. Discussion of Models

John Jordan spoke about bringing fifth grade back to the elementary school and having 6-8 at the middle. High school would remain 9-12.

Ed Juengst said any consolidation move would be a welcome thing.

Discussion took place about other potential proposals.

6. Other

None.

Gail Cromwell motioned to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

