

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**106 Hancock Road**

**Peterborough, New Hampshire**

**CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2015**

**School Board Meeting**

**7:00 P.M.**

**SAU #1**

**BOARD**

Gary Backstrom, Rich Cahoon,  
Butch Estey, Tom Ferenc,  
Joel Green, Jon Ingram,  
David Martz, Stephan Morrissey,  
Linda Quintanilha, Pierce Rigrod,  
Crista Salamy, Myron Steere,  
Fiona Tibbetts

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Supt.  
Kimberly Saunders, Asst. Supt.  
Marian Alese, B.A.  
Tim Markley, H.R.  
Dr. Rick Matte, Student Services  
Nicola Fraley, FES  
Ben Loi, PES  
Amy Janoch, HES  
Dr. Ann Allwarden, AES/Pierce  
Anne O'Bryant, SMS  
Colleen Roy, GES

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Butch Estey called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**2. Minutes (Board Vote Required)**

**a. January 6, 2015**

**Myron Steere moved to accept the minutes of January 6, 2015. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.**

**3. Points of Pride**

**District**

ConVal's Food Service Program was recently recognized by Niche, ranking ConVal's program 5<sup>th</sup> in the State of New Hampshire. The ranking is a measure of a school offering a variety of healthy, quality food options, accommodates various dietary preferences, and the students rate the school lunch program favorably.

**Great Brook School**

On Friday, a team from Great Brook (Linda Bundy, Kelly Marshall, Larisa Bravo, and Mary Quintanilha), were the subject of a leadership conference at the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disabilities. The focus was creating an expectation of competency for all students.

**HES**

This past week, HES third and fourth graders made 10 gallons of chili for the Hancock Community Supper on Thursday January 22nd. Students read directions, measured ingredients, learned new vocabulary - sauté, actually sautéed meat, cried over onions and opened a lot of cans. Kindergarten and first graders will be making Caesar salad on Wednesday and Grade 2 will be making macaroni and cheese on Thursday to complete the meal. Students were thrilled to sauté meat.

Anna Petrova, the Educational Director from the Mariposa Museum, presented "The Science of Chocolate" to the 4th grade class at HES. Throughout the fall, students have been learning about harvesting and processing the cacao (ka-kow) in order to make chocolate. Anna's presentation brought students learning to life through a

*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.*

live cacao tree and cacao pods. Students made both hot chocolate and chocolate bars from the harvested cacao.

#### **4. Public Comment**

None.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

##### **a. Personnel**

##### **1) Nominations**

**Myron Steere moved to accept the nomination as read for Kallie Provencher and Stephanie Scherr. Stephan Morrissey second.** It was noted that the salaries listed are yearly salaries and will be prorated. **Unanimous.**

##### **2) Notice of Co-Curricular Positions**

Tim Markley referenced the notice of co-curricular positions as informational.

##### **3) Job Description – Maintenance Technician (2nd Read/Adoption)**

**Myron Steere moved to adopt the job description as read. Gary Backstrom second. Unanimous.**

#### **6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business**

##### **a. Monthly Events Calendar**

Budget & Property Committee will meet on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the SAU.  
Strategic Plan Committee will meet on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the SAU.

##### **b. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)**

1) Great Brook School requests the authorization to accept a gift/donation totaling \$1,000.00 from Holly & Fletch Wilson of Frankestown for the purpose of financial assistance to help students who cannot afford the full cost of the Washington, D.C. trip in April.

**Myron Steere moved to accept the gift as read. Stephan Morrissey second. Linda Quintanilha abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.**

2) South Meadow School requests the authorization to accept a gift/donation of \$1,000.00 from the Daniels Foundation in Hancock for the purpose of continued support of education and outreach programs at the SMS Library.

**Pierce Rigrod moved to accept the gift as read. Gary Backstrom second. Unanimous.**

#### **7. Reports**

##### **a. Student Representative- River Marmorstein**

River Marmorstein reported that it is finals week at CVHS this week. It is an important week for students.

##### **b. Teacher Representative – Gil Morris**

None.

##### **c. Budget & Property Committee Meeting – Myron Steere**

Myron Steere reported out on a presentation on food service from both Café Services and ConVal Food Services. Taste testing has been scheduled off-site. A comparison will take place. A recommendation will come forward.

##### **d. Public Hearing on Budget & Teacher's Contract – Butch Estey**

Butch Estey reported that the hearing was well received.

David Martz asked that a copy of the teacher's contract and budget by line placed on the district website. Confirmed.

##### **e. Communication Committee – Myron Steere**

Myron Steere reported opportunities to communicate the budget and teacher's contract took place at the most recent meeting. Other modes of communication were discussed. Meeting with Selectboard's was discussed as well as use of AlertNow (Blackboard Connect) to communicate meetings and voting. Newspaper notices

have been done in the past. The district has offered “remember to vote” banners to individual towns. Student volunteers are asked for support. Refreshments and free childcare are available for district meeting. Use of Alertnow, according to legal counsel, is permitted if it is explanatory, not encouraging or persuading people in one direction. We can say that the vote is March 10<sup>th</sup> etc.

**David Martz moved not to use Alertnow. Gary Backstrom second.**

Mr. Martz objected stating that it is a targeted audience.

Linda Quintanilha asked why we don't want as many people as possible participating in the democracy.

David Martz reported that he is in favor of the budget and contract.

Stephan Morrissey said that we are here to educate people that there is a meeting and a vote.

Rich Cahoon reported having received complaints about using the system in the past.

Marian Alese reported that the AG's Office does not provide advice to municipalities and school districts.

Myron Steere reported that his town reports that they feel it is illegal.

Butch Estey reported that people have approached him asking why a reminder wasn't sent in the past.

Crista Salamy said that if we don't want to use district funds then we shouldn't pay for banners either.

David Martz reported that everyone has the potential to see the banner.

Pierce Rigrod shared that given the warrant articles this year, many will already be aware. He is less concerned this year. If it is allowable, it might be a policy question.

Stephan Morrissey asked the cost to use the system. ConVal pays a yearly subscription fee.

**In favor: Tom Ferenc, Linda Quintanilha, Joel Green, Myron Steere, Rich Cahoon, Gary Backstrom, Fiona Tibbetts, David Martz. Motion passed.**

**Myron Steere moved to allow banners if desired. David Martz second.**

David Martz asked to table the decision until costs are known.

**Stephan Morrissey amended the motion to allow banners at a maximum cost not to exceed \$2,500 total.**

**Myron Steere second. Gary Backstrom, Crista Salamy, Fiona Tibbetts opposed. David Martz abstained.**

**Motion carried.**

Discussion took place about childcare for the second school board meeting of each month. It was suggested to try this opportunity out in February when the meeting is at the high school.

Paying for refreshments was discussed for meetings as well.

**Myron Steere moved to provide refreshments. Stephan Morrissey second.**

Joel Green said that there is inconsistency in this dialogue. How is this not targeting? It is all the same to him in terms of providing a convenience to people.

Stephan Morrissey reported that it will be distributed in newspapers and on the website.

Joel Green said that it is a targeted audience.

Linda Quintanilha suggested that we should face the fact that the alert system caused upset to some. She has not heard of a complaint about getting the word out in any other way.

Pierce Rigrod asked why not send out a reminder to every residence district wide.

Rich Cahoon asked if we could deal with the topic of childcare at every second meeting of the month.

Confirmed. Reaching out to PTO's to set dates was discussed. Pierce Rigrod suggested forgetting refreshments. Timeline for membership to set up meetings.

**Myron Steere withdrew his motion to supply refreshments. Stephan withdrew his second.**

#### **f. Strategic Plan Committee – Pierce Rigrod**

Pierce Rigrod reported that the timeline was discussed at last meeting. A profile is underway by NESDEC. The district survey is under development and will be distributed so that it is well represented. Focus groups will be determined. Let Pierce know if any committee has an issue that should be discussed by the Strategic Plan Committee.

### **8. Old Business**

#### **a. Expenditure Report – Marian Alese**

Marian Alese reported that this includes two vacancies; likely requiring transfer of funds. Funds have been transferred from custodial salary to contracted services. Health insurance has a large unencumbered balance. Repairs and maintenance reflect transfers from prior year encumbrance into lines that purchase orders were carried over.

#### **b. Antrim Field Agreement – David Martz**

Tabled.

## 9. New Business

### a. 1<sup>st</sup> Read Policies

JFAB: Admission and Tuition of Nonresident Students

Linda Quintanilha referenced this policy as a first read.

JFABD: Admission of Homeless Students

Linda Quintanilha referenced this policy as a first read.

### b. Policy to Rescind (School Board Vote Required)

JA: Student Policies Goals

JB: Equal Educational Opportunities

JECAA: Student Admissions Admission of Post-Secondary Students

JECAB: Sibling Policy

JEF: Release Time for Students

JFBA: Student Government

JFCB: Care of School Property by Students

JFG: Interrogations and Searches

Linda Quintanilha reported that these policies are no longer needed.

**Linda Quintanilha moved to rescind all policies as listed. Myron Steere second. Unanimous.**

### c. Theatre Group MOU Discussion

Marian Alese reported that a group has been working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ConVal Theatre Arts Group and the district for language that is agreeable and legal so that both parties are protected. There are questions about insurance and liability. Loan or lease of the building. Rich, David, Brendan, Marian, John Halper and Marian Alese made up the group that discussed this topic.

Brian Pickering is on the Board of the Theatre Group; Myron Steere cited this as a conflict of interest.

Rich Cahoon said that if it is disclosed, the district is adequately protected from that conflict.

### d. Petition Warrant Articles

David Martz asked for language on Article 3 to include that the meeting would not take place during the summer months.

**Rich Cahoon asked about the order of the articles; he moved to make 11 to 8, 12 to become 9, to move ahead. Pierce Rigrod second. Unanimous.**

Butch Estey began discussion about petition warrant articles and where the board stands.

Article 8 – closing Great Brook School.

Myron Steere was not in favor; stating that it is premature.

Rich Cahoon wanted to discuss the merits on the possibility of meeting an August 2015 deadline.

Stephan Morrissey reminded the board that GBS just won an award..Middle School of the Year.

**Linda Quintanilha moved that the Board not support this article. Stephan Morrissey second.**

**Gary Backstrom abstained. All else in favor. Motion Carried.**

Article 9 – Change word “shall” to “may”.

**David Martz moved not to support this article. Fiona Tibbetts second.**

Gary Backstrom asked why not support it. David Martz said that the Strategic Plan is underway; let's get that work done first.

Myron Steere agreed that we would be premature making these decisions until the Strategic Plan was complete. He suggested that the Strategic Plan may have multiple changes to the Articles; why stir it up prematurely.

Linda Quintanilha shared that if an elementary school enrollment reduced to the 30's and a town asked to send students to another town they could not if the wording is not changed.

The response was that it would require a vote and time if that was the intent.

Linda Quintanilha said that having the wording in place will likely not be implemented without the vote of a town.

Stephan Morrissey said that the impression might be that we would force a town; we don't want that to be the impression. It is a sensitive topic.

Rich Cahoon shared concern with the focus on the work on the Strategic Plan. It is not a school consolidation focus. This should not hinge on the Strategic Plan.

Pierce Rigrod said that we want to pull information in and make informed decisions. This sends a message. He looks for continuity. It is not timely to send this message and favor this approach at this point in time.

Linda Quintanilha said that the conversation is always around money and politics. If a student will get a better education if schools are consolidated, that is her job, to assure a better education. It is the board's responsibility.

Joel Green said that to support the petition opens up the dialogue. He said that the Strategic Plan will likely state where we are going to succeed. He does not support this because it opens up the dialogue.

**Motion to not support: Jon Ingram, David Martz, Myron Steere, Stephan Morrissey, Fiona Tibbetts, Rich Cahoon, Pierce Rigrod, Tom Ferenc, Crista Salamy.**

**Motion passed in favor not to support this article.**

**e. Acceptance of Warrant (Board Vote Required)**

**Myron Steere moved to accept the Warrant. Stephan Morrissey second.**

Rich Cahoon asked about advising public.

**Myron Steere moved to advise the public on the issue of a petition article. Second.**

Butch Estey shared that counsel has notified us that both petition articles are valid to be placed on warrant. Mr. Estey reported that the article on closing a middle school is advisory only and deemed to be a referendum vote. If voters voted to close a middle school, it does not have the force of law, but asks the district to look into this. The article is advisory in nature only.

**Jon Ingram abstained. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**David Martz moved to have the default budget be placed on the website along with the default by object, teachers contract, and administrator's contract.**

Myron Steere urged that a statement asking any questions directed to Marian.

Tim Markley suggested that the term Collective Bargaining Contract be used rather than teacher's contract.

**Second. Unanimous.**

**f. Signing of MS26, Warrant, and Default Budget Posting**

Marian Alese shared three sets of copies of the documents for signing. The warrant will be changed to reflect decisions made tonight. She asked the board to sign the signature pages, which they did.

A reminder to the board that those interested in running for open positions may file their intent of candidacy beginning tomorrow through January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Butch Estey asked the Board if they would like to send out an informational flyer to every mailbox in the district. It is a bulk mailing permit; so it is approximately \$600.00 to mail out.

**Joel Green moved to send out a bulk mail informational flyer on the articles for the vote. David Martz second. Unanimous.**

**10. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)**

Marian Alese certified that manifests 41-47 totaling \$777,544.07 and Payroll 14 totaling \$789,694.56 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.

**Myron Steere moved to approve the manifests as read. Gary Backstrom second. Unanimous.**

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

None.

**Myron Steere motioned to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok