

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire**

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

School Board Meeting

6:45 p.m.

Antrim Elementary School

BOARD

Stewart Brock, Rich Cahoon,
Matthew Craig, Butch Estey,
Joel Green, David Martz,
Linda Quintanilha, Pierce Rigrod,
Myron Steere, Erik Thibault,
Fiona Tibbetts

Gil Morris, CVEA

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Supt.
Kimberly Saunders, Asst. Supt.
Marian Alese, B.A.
Tim Markley, H.R.
Dr. Rick Matte, Student Services
Dr. Cathy Higgins, Tech.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Ann Allwarden, AES/Pierce
Jim Elder, GBS
Brian Pickering, CVHS
Ann O'Bryant, SMS
Ben Loi, PES
Noreen McAloon, FES/GES/HES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

See #2 below.

2. Ann Allwarden – Antrim Elementary School Principal Welcome

Ann Allwarden, AES Staff, and students shared work conducted on a wall mural that involved four panels, each representing a different season and the animals that one might see during that time. The murals were absolutely beautiful and detailed. The work was done alongside Harris Center staff. Students were available to share the process for their work. They also shared field guides created in conjunction with their project.

Butch Estey called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. November 5, 2013

Myron Steere moved to accept the minutes of November 5, 2013. Stewart Brock second. Erik Thibault, Linda Quintanilha, and Joel Green abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

4. Points of Pride

CVHS

Zach Letourneau was recently awarded the DAR Good Citizenship Award which recognizes students who possess outstanding qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism. Congratulations, Zach!

Congratulations are extended to Brian Pickering who has been named as a finalist for the Charles A. Napoli Secondary School Principal of the Year Award. A visiting team will be coming to tour the high school and meet with various groups including students, parents, administration and staff. I will keep everyone updated as we learn more!

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.

GBS

The GBS Griffin's Nest program has set a record for enrollment, with an amazing 52 Great Brookers pairing up with AES "buddies." During the first quarter middle-schoolers participate in training around leadership, communication, and active listening led by their advisor, Maryanne Cullinan. The program has expanded into three groups, the traditional one-on-one-buddies, playground monitoring, and preschool support.

SMS

SMS collected 700 lbs of food more than they have ever collected. They collected 2,000 lbs total. The band organized this effort under Ed Lowy's direction.

The Turkey Trot last Friday was a wonderful success. All students walked or ran the 1.5 mile course around ConVal High School.

The SMS Robotics Team came in 1st place at Dartmouth College Competition. The students received a perfect score on their performance under direction of Michele Brezovec.

DCS

DCS students ran a collective 80+ miles last week during our half hour Turkey Trot with fewer than 70 kids! Our PE teacher and Turkey Trot organizer, Paul Landau, let the kids know that was more than three marathons. Mr. Landeau helped them understand that we can do amazing things when we work together.

DCS hosted the first in New England Farm to Preschool conference on Oct. 5. There were 80 attendees, and it was very successful. Everyone loved our school and our garden. It was arranged by Cornucopia together with UNH.

5. Public Comment

Lisa Beaudoin, Temple, was present to speak about Unified Sports. Ms. Beaudoin suggested that Unified Sports be brought to ConVal High School. Currently four sports; soccer, basketball, track, and volleyball. Teams are made up 50/50; students with intellectual disabilities and those without. Participation in real games; competing against other teams is the opportunity. ConVal student's unofficial unified basketball team would expand the use of the new gym to students who may be average athletes. There is no recreational basketball in Peterborough. Unified sports allow athletes an option to play. She asked the ConVal School Board to support an unofficial unified basketball team this upcoming winter. Ms. Beaudoin thanked the Board for their time.

Principal Pickering confirmed that it would be an exciting and beneficial opportunity for our students. Mr. Pickering said that some of the logistical items need consideration, coaching, gym time etc. The new A.D. will dig deeper into this. There is a process to qualify to be considered as a Unified team. Mr. Pickering suspected that he would be able to present additional information mid March with the possibility of considering a two month unofficial playing time; maybe February March. Discussion took place related to when Varsity basketball begins.

Lisa Beaudoin said that Unified sports are designed to run parallel to the regular basketball schedule. The roster would include 8 or 10 students on each side of the 50/50. Ms. Beaudoin said that pulling a roster together would not be a problem. Ms. Beaudoin offered to volunteer for the position of coach.

Linda Quintanilha asked if the first year would be co-ed. Confirmed.

The Board thanked Ms. Beaudoin for her time.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

Mr. Markley referenced the notice of co-curricular positions and added Michelle Brezovec, SMS Radio Club.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

1) School Board Induction

School Board Induction Series on Curriculum will be held on Tues., December 17th at 5:00 p.m. at the SAU.

Tues., Dec. 10th – Budget & Property Committee Meeting at 5:00 p.m. at SAU

Policy Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at SAU

Wed., Dec. 11th – District Study Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at SAU

b. Camp Quest Presentation – Andy Peterson

Andy Peterson shared information on Camp Quest, currently offered in Jaffrey/Rindge (J/R) at Franklin Pierce University (FPU) and proposed for the ConVal School District. Mr. Peterson shared statistics for students at this critical stage in life. Mr. Peterson said that the commitment from the School District would allow these children a free sleep away camp experience that will fill the gap for students who often experience a summer slump and need the learning to continue. Those present shared a brief video detailing the experience for children at the camp in Jaffrey.

Information shared included the statistic that 55% to 65% of students who sit around during the summer will fall behind academically. Camp Quest is collaboration between the FPU, J/R Rotary, and the J/R School District. Children in the video shared the positives of their participation in the program. The Rotarians in turn shared the benefit that they too received by participating in the program.

Mr. Peterson said that the program has been recognized by the Board of Education. This is a template that could be used around the country and has been put into place in VT as well. Mr. Peterson asked the Board to approve funding to support this program. He also spoke about the positive relationships that develop through the program.

A representative of Nature's Classroom, and the Sargent Center shared how the science center can be a resource for camp. Academics in the field are just one benefit. Science curriculum is brought to life with these students who often struggle in this area. Adventure activities take place as well as a strong team building influence. Values that build stronger communities are taught and valued.

Mr. Peterson said that the school district would choose the 75 students sought from grades 6-8 with the hope to grow to 100 in future years. Students who participate would be less likely to have this opportunity to attend a two week sleep away camp. This is a chance to take these individuals who might be stuck in neutral or worse and put them in a structured program to boost their learning.

The budget item cost is \$40K to the district with total cost of \$75-\$80K of which the Rotary is looking to fundraise the difference. The contract would be with the school district and Nature's Classroom. Rotary members would sign up to be volunteer mentors in the program. The focus is both educational and recreational. Sargent Center is a non-profit organization.

Mr. Peterson asked the Board for their support and the go ahead to have the school district consult with Sargent Center on the program components. Every single Rotarian has spent one or two days at the Quest Camp.

Mr. Peterson said that this program is a tremendous value and would help these students at a critical point in their lives. This program meets the mission of the ConVal School District.

Two cabins are handicap accessible. The main dining room is accessible as well as some of the activities.

The \$40,000 covers a discounted cost of the camp experience.

Pierce Rigrod asked about donations; is it a non-profit organization. Mr. Peterson said that donations can be made to the Rotary Trust for this purpose. Institutional support, NHCF and other foundation support was achieved.

What sort of ongoing data collection takes place to measure the impact on outcomes. Once principals decide what the students need academically; three data points will be reviewed to measure outcomes in terms of assessments.

The Peterborough Rotary has a strong base of 60 members; many of which have expressed an interest in volunteering for the program.

The program would be offered district wide to students rising to grades 6-8.

Stewart Brock requested data; Mr. Peterson said that Jim O'Neill, J/R Superintendent could provide informational data on the experience for their children.

Mr. Peterson said that an answer is needed right away so that they can hit the ground running. Camp would begin July 6th through the 19th.

Fiona Tibbetts said that she did not feel comfortable giving an answer tonight.

Butch Estey asked Mr. Peterson to allow until the next School Board meeting on December 3rd. Confirmed.

8. Reports

a. Student Representative

Kimberly Saunders read Zach Letourneau's report that detailed that student engagement and learning participation was on the rise at CVHS. In addition, the report stated that the new Athletic Director would begin on Friday and would be welcomed with an assembly.

b. Teacher Representative

Gil Morris, CVHS Teacher reported that ACE Award nominations for students who have achieved good work ethic rules and skills are underway. The Keene Country Club will be the site for the 2014 Prom. The Craft Fair will take place this Saturday at CVHS. Fifth Block students mentored the SMS Robotics Team who recently placed first in competition.

c. Budget & Property Committee – Matthew Craig

Matthew Craig reported that Food Service reported out at the last B&P meeting. The Wellness Policy compliance was discussed in terms of its affect on revenue. Enforcing the policy bell to bell was discussed. The Food Service line is responsible for capital equipment. Upgrades to kitchen equipment and facilities are included. The next B&P meeting has been scheduled for December 10th.

d. Communication Committee – Stewart Brock

Stewart Brock reported that the committee will put together a simple statement on what the budget represents. Mr. Brock asked the Board for input. Agreement that the topical areas should be known by all board members so that the response is consistent.

Responses to *Letters to the Editor* will be responded to in a comprehensive way Thought also went into how we want to communicate. Stewart Brock asked the Board to send thoughts and ideas his way.

Discussion took place about providing points to Board members in a timely manner to allow them to include them in their town newsletters

e. Wellness Committee – Linda Quintanilha

Linda Quintanilha reported that two community members attended the recent meeting to discuss the Wellness Policy. In addition, a presentation from a Keene State intern on wellness and a wellness toolkit was shared. Lastly, Lisa Beaudoin spoke about Unified sports.

f. District Study Committee – Rich Cahoon

Rich Cahoon said that a report out on listening sessions was shared. More meetings are scheduled. A report on the staff survey was shared as well. The feedback reflects little interest in consolidating and more on efficiencies. Pierce Rigrod reported that cooperative snowplowing was discussed for some of the smaller towns to achieve a savings.

9. Old Business

a. Expenditure Report – M. Alese

Marian Alese reported no major changes in expenditures. There was a request to have clarification on what took place with the CVHS parking lot. There were two kinds of change orders; those unforeseen and those as a result of efficiencies. The bidding policy would not come into play for change orders.

Rich Cahoon said that he understands unforeseen items. Moving of Phase II items to Phase I was of concern. He wondered why the \$30,000 did not come to the Board. Marian believed it was a matter of timing.

Rich Cahoon asked for clarity on the vote to approve Phase I and the P.O. was cut for \$350K; he asked how that happened. Marian Alese reported that the purchase order came first.

b. Grants Report – M. Alese

Marian Alese reported that carry over grants are still pending.

c. Budget +/- Report – M. Alese

Marian Alese reported no significant changes to expenses. Anticipated revenue is 42,600 less than what thought.

d. 2014/2015 Budget Update

The 2014-2015 Budget Process was reviewed. Facilities and Technology summaries were shared. A draft of suggested Warrant Articles was shared as a first pass.

Discussion took place about determining the recommended amount of money to maintain and/or cap the reserve funds.

Does the track estimate include field events space? Confirmed.

Has the need for the nursing proposed last year lessened or is it still there? Rick Matte confirmed that the need is still there. Matthew Craig asked for the need to be acknowledged and considered for the “all in” budget.

e. 2012 LGC Refund

Marian Alese reported that the LGC checks have been sent to the towns.

A third return of surplus will be coming in September. Rich Cahoon asked if we include it in calculations for upcoming budget. Confirmed.

The new amount for future return is approximately 95% of \$254,000.

Discussion took place about deciding about this money; the mechanism about how we accept and apply this money. Marian Alese said that she will assume it is going to reduce assessment.

Enrollment information was included in folders.

Linda Quintanilha asked for information to be shared with board members at least 3 days prior to meeting.

10. New Business

None.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Marian certified that manifests 23f14017 through 23f14019 and 36 through 40 totaling \$1,078,065.74 and Payroll 10 totaling \$785,025.85 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.

Stewart Brock moved to accept the manifests as read. Myron Steere second. Unanimous.

The School Board recessed for a five minute break at 9:28 p.m.

12. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II

a. Student

Erik Thibault moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 9:35 p.m. for matters of student and personnel. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Matthew Craig moved to exit non public session at 10:05 p.m. David Martz second. Unanimous.

Erik Thibault motioned to seal the minutes of the student matter in perpetuity. Matthew Craig second. Unanimous.

Matthew Craig motioned to seal the minutes of personnel for five years. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok