

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

School Board Meeting

SAU #1

Board Room

7:00 p.m.

BOARD

Gary Backstrom, Rich Cahoon,
Richard Dunning, Butch Estey,
Janine Lesser, David Martz,
Stephan Morrissey, Linda Quintanilha,
Pierce Rigrod, Myron Steere,
Fiona Tibbetts, Jerome Wilson

River Marmorstein, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Supt.
Kimberly Saunders, Asst. Supt.
Marian Alese, B.A.
Tim Markley, H.R.
Dr. Rick Matte, Student Services
Dr. Ann Allwarden, AES/Pierce School
Amy Janoch, HES
Nicole Pease, DCS
Brian Pickering, CVHS
Anne O'Bryant, SMS
Nicky Fraley, FES
Ben Loi, PES
Colleen Roy, GES
Jim Elder, GBS

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Butch Estey called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. October 20, 2015

Linda Quintanilha moved to accept the minutes of October 20, 2015. Stephan Morrissey second. Gary Backstrom and Pierce Rigrod abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

3. Chairman's Recognition Award

None.

4. Points of Pride

Dr. Minnihan shared various points of pride from throughout the district.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

1) Resignation

Myron Steere moved to accept the resignation of Kallie Provencher for June 2016. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

2) 2015-2016 Stipend Positions

Tim Markley referenced stipend positions as informational for the board.

3) Job Description – Systems Administrator (1st Read)

MISSION STATEMENT

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Tim Markley referenced this job description as a first read. Please send comments to Tim Markley.

b. Enrollment Report – November 1, 2015

Tim Markley reported very slight changes from October 1st enrollment to November 1st.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Budget & Property Committee will meet on Tues., November 10th at 6:30 p.m. at the SAU.

Public Hearing on Video Surveillance was scheduled for Tues., November 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the SAU.

The second Strategic Plan Forum scheduled on December 10th will take place at SMS.

b. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

- 1) CVHS/GBS requests authorization to accept a gift/donation of a Parlor Grand piano valued at \$8,000 from the The David Barlow family.

Myron Steere moved to accept the gift as stated. Dick Dunning second with extreme gratitude. Unanimous.

c. Field Trip Request (Board Vote Required)

- 1) ConVal High School – students will fly to Costa Rica to tour, visit a school, a family farm, kayak, hike and other recreational activities to immerse themselves in the culture and history.

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the field trip request. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

8. Assistant Superintendent's Report

a. Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Overview

Kimberly Saunders presented on Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium. The goal is to measure students toward becoming college and career ready. Ms. Saunders reviewed "claims" and "targets".

Cut scores are based on the pilot the year before last; ConVal did not participate in the pilot. Cut scores, unlike the SAT, are grade specific. Claims are measured by "below", "at or near" or "above" standard. Targets are based on the percent of questions students attempted and got correct. Scores are reported to parents on an individual score sheet.

How do you score a student who uses a communication device on "speaking". Ms. Saunders said that accommodations are made for that student such as a writing opportunity.

Can you opt out of SBAC testing? There is not an official way for a student to opt out. When asked by a parent, a name from the State was provided. No disciplinary measure for not participating.

We now do SBAC and MAPS? Yes.

Is this going to give us the right data for our district? This provides data about how our students do with CCSS. It does not give same data in terms of where students presently perform, what they do not know, and their reach. This is a standards driven test.

AIMSWEB benchmarks students three times a year for reading K-4. Progress is monitored regularly.

Kimberly Saunders will bring results to the board as a district picture.

Linda Quintanilha requested that this be placed on the next agenda.

9. Reports

a. Student Representative – River Marmorstein

River Marmorstein reported that Q2 just started. Students are starting to get more involved in their communities. They met with SAC last week and were offered opportunities in the towns to participate.

a. Teacher Representative – Patrick Cogan

None.

b. Education Committee – Crista Salamy

Kimberly Saunders reported that the Ed Committee looked at athletic pieces for the budget; a recommendation will be coming forward. In addition, class size recommendations are being reviewed in terms of the impact on instruction.

c. Selectmen's Advisory Committee

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John Jordan reported that a Strategic Plan presentation was shared. Students came to express interest in opportunities in the individual towns for them to serve. A budget update was shared. Peterborough's broadband study was discussed.

d. **Budget & Property Committee** – Myron Steere

Myron Steere reported that Cougar Youth Sports is looking for an agreement. David Martz was suggested to work with them on developing an agreement. Confirmed.

Hutter Construction has been working on a restoration project at the high school.

Myron Steere moved to negotiate with Hutter for construction management services. Dick Dunning second.

Marian Alese said that if work continued with Hutter with only a verbal agreement and a bid was developed, Hutter would not be able to bid because of inside knowledge. Hutter would eventually bid out all phases of the project in the event a bond goes forward. Financial obligation is not being asked. Marian said that we asked Hutter to draw up preliminary plans. There was a request of them to produce a more detailed document. If we continue to work with them and we decide to bid out the project, they would not be able to participate. We ask that they continue assuming that they would bid out the project.

Rich Cahoon said that at some point they will be paid for management services which will be above \$15K, which is the policy limit for bidding out. Rich asked if waiver of the policy is being asked. Marian Alese confirmed. Permission to negotiate is being asked. We are not looking to enter into a construction management project. At some point we may have to waive the policy on the bidding requirements. The other option is to start from scratch.

In favor: All except Rich Cahoon

Opposed: Rich Cahoon.

Motion carried.

e. **Strategic Plan Committee** – Pierce Rigrod

Pierce Rigrod referenced a Strategic Plan summary sheet. A digital copy has been shared of the plan. A presentation will be brought to the board on December 1st with a vote on the 15th.

Fiscal impact will be summarized in the report. Two forums on December 8th and 10th at 6:30 and GBS and SMS respectively are scheduled.

Pierce Rigrod asked about the use of Blackboard Connect for sharing these meeting dates. It is a good way to get people to be aware of the plan.

Stephan Morrissey moved to use Blackboard Connect to advertise these public forum dates. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous.

10. Old Business

a. Soft Borders Discussion

Butch Estey shared discussion in past years about soft borders i.e. allowing families to attend schools that are closer rather than the one in their town. Mr. Estey noted enrollment figures today, and the size of some of the schools with 8, 9, or 10 students in a class. When classes were combined, it was from a financial saving perspective.

Kimberly Saunders said that multi-grade was in place prior to her employment. Educational benefits were requested.

Marian Alese said that we had multi-age/multi-grade in schools for educational reasons. Then we had a period where it was in place for financial reasons. There was an effort spent to train staff for multi-age so that parents could be comfortable with it. Over the years, there has been lack of philosophy because the multi-age/grade in a specific school has shifted.

Butch Estey said that the board can't sit here and think we are doing our jobs without making hard choices. It is something the board needs to think about. Right now, it is difficult to keep some of the schools open financially.

Rich Cahoon said that we have defined "soft borders" as the closest school in town boundary. Butch said that it can be multiple ways.

Butch Estey asked the board to start thinking about this to get the dialogue going.

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Stephan Morrissey said that there has to be an educational advantage for parents to buy in. It must be well documented.

Butch Estey said that we need to think about school closure.

Linda Quintanilha said that she completely supports Butch in this effort. Soft borders will help the district meet FAPE. Students with specific needs does not allow them FAPE.

Next steps will included the Education Committee investigating and reporting back. Budget & Property will look at this as well.

Linda Quintanilha spoke about the current practice where parents can petition a school for their child to attend another for reasons of daycare or other. Very rarely are they refused.

Pierce Rigrod said that the Strategic Plan addresses some of this. He suggested another group, aside from Education, form to look at this more regularly.

11. New Business

a. 1st Read Policies

- IGA: Curriculum Development
- IJ: Instructional Materials Adoption
- JCA: Change of School or Assignment
- JFAB: Admission and Tuition of Non-Resident Students

Rich Cahoon referenced the above policies as first reads. Send comments to Policy Committee members, Carol Arnold, and Kimberly Saunders.

12. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Marian Alese certified that manifests listed totaling \$449,460.75 and Payroll totaling \$1,784,651.18 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 accept the manifests as read. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey asked about pre-purchase possibilities for heating oil. Marian Alese reported that prepurchase for oil will not be possible until May for the following school year.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Personnel

Myron Steere moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II for matters of negotiation at 8:07 p.m. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Myron Steere moved to exit non-public session at 8:23 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

David Martz motioned to accept contracts for Dr. Rick Matte and Tim Markley. Richard Dunning second. Unanimous.

Myron Steere motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for five years. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Myron Steere moved to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3 at 8:24 p.m. for student matters. Unanimous on roll call vote.

Myron Steere moved to exit non-public session at 8:30 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Myron Steere moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for eternity. Second. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

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