

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

School Board Meeting

SAU Office

7:00 p.m.

BOARD

Gary Backstrom, Rich Cahoon,
Butch Estey, Janine Lesser,
David Martz, Stephan Morrissey,
Linda Quintanilha, Pierce Rigrod,
Crista Salamy, Myron Steere,
Fiona Tibbetts

River Marmorstein, CVHS Student Rep.
Gil Morris, CVEA

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brendan Minnihhan, Supt.
Kimberly Saunders, Asst. Supt.
Marian Alese, B.A.
Tim Markley, H.R.
Dr. Rick Matte, Student Services
Brian Pickering, CVHS
Nicky Fraley, FES
Amy Janoch, HES
Anne O'Bryant, SMS
Jim Elder, GBS
May Clark, DCS
Ben Loi, PES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Butch Estey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. March 17, 2015

Myron Steere moved to accept the minutes of March 17, 2015. Stephan Morrissey second. Linda Quintanilha amended the minutes to reflect her presence at the meeting. Rich Cahoon abstained. All else in favor as amended.

3. School Board Chairman's Award

Chairman Estey recognized Brian Grattan for the School Board Chairman's Award for support staff and Sarah Titus for teaching staff.

4. Points of Pride

AES & Pierce School

This spring, girls from AES and BES had the opportunity to sign up for the Girls on the Run program. The girls have been meeting after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. The program "includes three parts: understanding ourselves, valuing relationships and teamwork and understanding how we connect with and shape the world at large." The program will culminate in running the 2015 Spring Girls on the Run NH 5k Celebration on June 7th. While this is not a ConVal sponsored program, the following staff members from AES became certified Girls on the Run coaches and have played a critical role in bringing this opportunity to AES and BES:

Cheryl Jessie, Occupational Therapist
Allison Lipnoski, Special Educator
Sarah Halliday, Paraprofessional

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.

DCS

On April 1st, DCS held their kickoff of their fifth annual read-a-thon. Last year, our kids read over 57,000 minutes in two weeks, and we are going to try to break that record this year. We shared a new episode in the saga of Super Bookworm, Book Boy and their supporters, facing a new threat from TV Man and his wicked henchmen. The surprise mascot for this year's read-a-thon is The Man in the Yellow Hat, who visited, along with Curious George, to read to the children and give them their first 15 minutes of reading for the read-a-thon. Students all received a book and a bookmark from the PTO. The read-a-thon will culminate in two weeks with a celebration lunch, another appearance from The Man in the Yellow Hat and Curious George, a reprise of Super Bookworm and her victorious readers, as well as another gift of a book from a DCS parent, David Van Etten. The second week of the read-a-thon coincides with Turn Off TV week, and our annual Literacy Celebration, an evening of presentations for families.

FES

Third and fourth grade students at FES have begun their Smarter Balanced assessments. Everyone, staff and students, have been working really hard to be successful with this new assessment. We have had no technical glitches and appreciate the support that we have received from the SAU and other elementary staffs that began before us.

5. Public Comment

Bev Edwards, Temple resident, shared information about what she said is a potential problem for the proposal for the gas pipeline. Land for placement of a compressor, necessary for this project, has been surveyed. Temple Elementary would be near the incineration zone. Ms. Edwards cited safety issues that would exist for Temple Elementary School students. Ms. Edwards asked that petitions and/or requests that the board might consider reasonable in terms of adjustments to this project is being asked. It is too close to the school. There is a two mile radius of terrible emissions. There is concern about the reservoir that supplies water to the school as well.

Linda shared a point of pride about a presentation she attended at Antioch, along with two GBS staff, about all inclusion.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

1) Notice of Co-Curricular Positions

Tim Markley referenced information included in tonight's packet for notification purposes only.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Negotiations will meet on April 16th, April 30th, and May 26th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the SAU Office.

Strategic Plan Committee will meet on April 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Policy Committee will meet on April 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the SAU Office.

Two Public Hearings are scheduled on April 21st beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the SAU Office.

Education Committee will meet on April 28th and May 12th at 5:00 p.m. at the SAU.

b. April 1, 2015 Enrollment Update

Tim Markley reported minor changes in enrollment data. Kindergarten screenings are underway. Individual schools will be getting registration information resulting in actual numbers.

8. Reports

a. Student Representative –River Marmorstein

River Marmorstein, student representative, reported that the quarter ends this Friday. He reported out on a successful blood drive, a visit from Peter Leishman, and a band and choral concert that was very successful.

Dr. Minnihan reported that spring sports have been delayed by several weeks as a result of weather.

b. Teacher Representative – Gil Morris

Gil Morris reported that the drama performed "*You Are a Good Man Charlie Brown*" at Peterborough Players. Patrick Cogan, GBS, has started a Friends of Music group and has raised enough money to purchase stage lighting for GBS.

c. Budget & Property Committee – Myron Steere

Myron Steere reported out on the last meeting; Froling Energy met to share wood burning alternatives. In addition, a district athletic privately funded proposal was shared. A summer project list was reviewed; projects that qualify for building aid will be gathered. A discussion on long range capital planning was initiated at this meeting. An update on the capital and erate projects schedule was reviewed, the Food Service Program was discussed as well as the Theatre MOU at tonight's Budget & Property Committee meeting. There are minor MOU changes to the agreement.

d. Strategic Plan Committee – Pierce Rigrod

Pierce Rigrod reported that the public survey is being worked on. Comments or questions should be directed to Pierce Rigrod. The committee plans to complete this within the next week or less. It will be sent out electronically and by mail. Focus groups will be developed as part of the next steps.

e. Education Committee – Crista Salamy

Crista Salamy reported the Cougar Volunteer of the proposed Youth Sports Group met with Education Committee members. They are an independent organization of volunteers. This organization will meet with towns next. The District Athletic Director/Co-Curricular position was discussed as well at this meeting. More discussion will be forthcoming. Marian Alese reported that the expectation for this is not for the next school year. The potential is for 2016/2017. This is very preliminary.

An ATC update was shared that provided the history of the program. Program enrollment was discussed. New pilot programming with New Hampshire Ball Bearing to expose students to manufacturing is underway.

Crista Salamy motioned for a vote of the full board to start the three year clock for ladies volleyball at SMS. The clock would start this year. The Ed Committee recommends this to the full board. Funding would not be guaranteed.

Second.

Anne O'Bryant reported approximately 20 students participating this year with the potential for more than two teams next year.

Myron Steere abstained. Motion carried.

Crista Salamy reported a request for a change in stipends at SMS from 4-H to a Garden Club. They would like to start a running club in addition. The stipend for the Science Club was suggested for an increase. Each school is given a budgeted amount of money to disburse. SMS to reallocate their money; for 2016/2017 a review of volunteers would take place.

Crista reported that the Superintendent has been meeting with FES and GES to discuss an outdoor approach to education. This is preliminary.

Students at the high school are gathering data and doing research on the start time for high school. They would like to present at a future Education Committee meeting.

The Block scheduling committee has completed a survey; it appears that block scheduling is favorable to most people. Hiccups need ironing out.

9. Old Business

a. Student School Board Member – Non-Voting

Discussion took place about a student member, sitting on the board, without voting rights. This student would be elected by the student body of the high school. This representative would be able to share opinions and perspectives. They would not be allowed into non-public sessions.

Linda Quintanilha moved to have a Student School Board Member as outlined. Crista Salamy second.

David Martz asked if it could be reversed if not satisfied. Confirmed.

This individual would not be assigned to subcommittees.

Gary Backstrom opposed. All else in favor. Motion carried.

b. 2015-2016 Health Insurance Rates

Marian Alese reported that actual rates have been received and they reflect a 6% increase as anticipated. Marian clarified the employee contribution for non-bargaining unit members was 12%. Confirmed.

Myron Steere moved to clarify that all staff follow the same guidelines for the 2015/2016 year (as amended). Second. Unanimous.

10. New Business

a. Theatre Memorandum of Understanding (School Board Vote Required)

Myron Steere reported three versions of the MOU. Budget & Property thought that, with minor language changes, they could recommend the MOU.

Marian Alese reported that the changes in language include the wording of “necessary funds” in place of the blank line where a dollar amount was requested.

Additional language changes include the removal of another blank line and replaced with a statement as well.

Lastly, section 6.0 was amended to reflect two purposes for building a performing arts center for both students and to act as a regional community resource for performing arts (or something to that affect).

The MOU is a Memorandum of Understanding between the school district and the organization raising funds for the construction of a performing arts center.

Myron Steere moved to approve the Theatre Memorandum of Understanding pending an update of counsel on amended language. Second.

Rich confirmed that we are not committing to any size of facility.

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding to allow fundraising to begin for Phase 1 is being asked.

David Martz abstained. Motion carried.

John Halper, project manager, thanked the board for their support.

b. Proposed Pipeline

David Martz wants the proposed pipeline to be on the board’s radar. This has the potential to adversely affect Temple Elementary School students.

c. Current Status of State Budget

Dr. Minnihhan reported that a State Budget has been proposed. Compromise to agreement on the budget will take place.

The Stabilization Grant has a big impact; reduction was proposed which was amended resulting in a loss of \$263,000 for the district if passed. This still needs to go before the Senate. Discussion ensued.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Marian Alese certified that manifests 63 – 66 totaling \$568,694.61 and Payroll 19-10 totaling \$2,593,173.64 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.

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

a. Personnel

Myron Steere moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 8:34 p.m. for matters of personnel. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Myron Steere moved to exit non-public session at 9:26 p.m. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Myron Steere moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for a period of three years. Gary Backstrom second. Unanimous.

Myron Steere motioned to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok