

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET & PROPERTY

December 2, 2015

SAU Office

6:30 PM

MINUTES

Committee Members:

- Myron Steere, Chair
- Janine Lesser
- Pierce Rigrod
- David Martz
- Richard Dunning

Present: Myron Steere, Janine Lesser, Richard Dunning, Pierce Rigrod

Others: Marian Alese, Kimberly Saunders, Tim Grossi, Jerome Wilson, John Jordan, Fiona Tibbetts

1. Call to Order

Myron Steere called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – November 10, 2015

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2015. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

3. November 2015 Expense Report

Marian Alese reported that changes previously approved by board have taken place. Prior year encumbrances have been moved to the appropriate lines for transfers. Trustees have not yet been contacted for transfer to cover the tractor. No other major changes to report.

Dick Dunning moved to bring the report forward at the next board meeting. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

4. Organization Structure Discussion (Handouts at Meeting)

Marian Alese shared a document that reflects the closing of three schools, for discussion purposes, as a result of a request for this information. Ms. Alese reported that she reallocated a number of positions. Students were redistributed to AES and PES to give an idea of what classroom size would look like. Other positions were reallocated to accommodate the additional students.

A savings of approximately \$714,367 per year is the result in this scenario.

Janine Lesser asked what the non-budget considerations are. Marian said that this scenario actually provides more for students; a full-time nurse, library services, etc. Counseling positions, health/PE, and Art staff would cover fewer buildings with less travel time.

Janine Lesser shared her interest in knowing more about the positives and challenges with smaller or larger schools.

Kimberly Saunders said that a decision such as this should not be made during budget season or in a vacuum. The administration should examine every option and report back with their findings with a recommendation.

Marian said that the upside is that it provides better, more consistent services to the remaining schools. A change in the elementary school structure would require a change in the Articles of Agreement. A dissolution of the co-op might also be a result, which would also require a change in the Articles of Agreement.

Other configurations might be considered that might not affect the elementary schools. Middle school reconfiguration might be considered. Stepping back and looking at what is best for children rather than what is best for a town is important. A district perspective should be considered.

Marian Alese suggested looking at how ConVal would like if it was being formed today.

Timelines were discussed. At least two years is required for a town to withdraw. Time is needed for planning purposes.

Marian reiterated that this exercise involving the closing of two schools is a result of a request to develop numbers. It is not a recommendation.

Pierce Rigrod spoke about investigating the best educational model for students. Peterborough should be encouraged not to withdraw while potential models are investigated.

Richard Dunning said that every town should investigate what education would look like for the children in their towns. Independent consultants can be brought in by towns to determine what the education would look like and what it would cost.

5. Other

Marian Alese reported that the majority of building budgets includes people. Pierce Rigrod spoke about snow plowing increases. Tim Grossi reported that it is an average of the last several years. Marian reported that we were in the red near \$70K for snow plowing last year.

FES furniture, DCS general supplies, and other various items were discussed. Pierce Rigrod said that current financial pressures should drive these purchases. If they are absolutely necessary they should move forward otherwise moved out.

Dick Dunning said that the goal would be to identify a specific dollar amount to administrators that they need to meet. Sacrifices can be determined by building administrators.

Kimberly Saunders said that it is better for Leadership to know the desired number and direction can be given to administrators.

Marian Alese spoke about the potential reality of having to lay off people and cut program that will impact the educational program for our students if we cut within the budget to meet the decrease in revenue.

Next year, the district has the potential of a \$200,000 decrease in revenue, right out of the gate, as a result of declining enrollment.

More discussion will take place at the upcoming Budget Work Session on Wed., December 9th.

Marian reminded those present that the current proposed budget absorbs \$1 million as a result of health insurance costs. Marian said that a number in terms of what would be acceptable for district assessment would be valuable.

Kimberly Saunders shared her concern with being given a number. She recognizes the extraordinary circumstances with the decrease in revenue.

Discussion took place about cutting 1% from an elementary school budget. It is a big deal. We are talking about eliminating positions.

Marian asked for clarification: B&P recommended and approved the purchase of materials in advance for track work. Does this mean that Maine Tennis & Track will be worked with? Confirmed.

Marian reported that a new version of the budget will be brought forward at the December 9th work session.

6. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II (If Needed)

Pierce Rigrod moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 7:52 p.m. in for matters of personnel. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Pierce Rigrod moved to exit non-public session at 8:06 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Pierce Rigrod asked why the \$250,000 encumbered for security in unreserved funds might be spent elsewhere. Marian Alese reminded that building aid may be affected as a result of negatively impacting revenue in a subsequent year.

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok