

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 3, 2015
7:00 p.m.
SAU #1

Minutes

Present: John Jordan, Scott Carbee, Gail Cromwell, John Robertson, Barbara Miller, Myron Steere, Rich Cahoon, Kimberly Saunders

John Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Accept Minutes – October 29, 2015

Gail Cromwell moved to accept the minutes of October 29, 2015. John Robertson second. Unanimous.

2. Budget

Version 3 of the budget was reviewed.

The next School Board Budget Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the SAU.

Gail Cromwell shared her objection about the wording on past warrants that states that monies deposited in trust funds do not raise taxes. Gail said that the continuous drop in enrollment and taxes need consideration. Towns have needs as well.

Discussion took place about why students are home schooled or attend private schools.

3. Strategic Plan

John Jordan shared Strategic Plan information that was distributed at the Budget & Property Committee meeting. Strategic Plan Survey data was reviewed.

Select Board members were thankful to those that put the presentation together. They shared the consensus of board members in their towns on their opinion of the importance of maintaining local schools.

John Jordan referenced information that was provided at Budget & Property sharing a scenario where three schools are closed and the budgetary implications that would follow.

Myron Steere said that towns should pay for their own elementary schools. Barbara Miller agreed that a town should pay for their own students.

Scott Carbee shared historical information about small towns suffering because they could not afford the high education costs.

Myron Steere said that the best alternatives for providing a proper education will be investigated.

John Jordan said that it would cost \$109,000 each year to operate a closed school. Mr. Jordan further spoke about the possibility of have a K-8 structure and closing South Meadow School. Various other models were floated.

Rich Cahoon said that adding additional small schools to a building does not solve the funding issue. Kimberly Saunders shared potential challenges with multi-grade when it differs from one year to the next. For example, at one school it might be K/1 one year and then 2/3 the following with lack of consistency.

4. Broadband Initiative

Barbara Miller reported that, according to the broadband survey results, three out of four respondents work from home. Most people are dissatisfied with the internet service that they have. Most were willing to pay more for this service. Mapping is the next step in the process to identify where there is service and where there are gaps in service. Every household should have at least 25 megabyte. Download speed is much faster; less so with upload speed. Service level agreements for business will be investigated. Peterborough wants a guaranteed speed. The need for internet grows so fast that the ability to upgrade is necessary. The priority would be the downtown area, hospital, and school areas among others. Next steps include contracting with a consulting company to manage this. Funding will be sought. Design and financial models are being investigated. Aside from high speed internet, the town has other infrastructure work that is needed. Barbara Miller distributed an executive summary.

5. Other

None.

Gail Gromwell motioned to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Barbara Miller second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok