

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

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, Crista Salamy,
Myron Steere, Fiona Tibbetts,
Jerome Wilson

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Supt.
Kimberly Saunders, Asst. Supt.
Marian Alese, B.A.
Tim Markley, H.R.
Dr. Rick Matte, Student Services
Colleen Roy, GES
Amy Janoch, HES
Anne O'Bryant, SMS
Jim Elder, GBS
Brian Pickering, CVHS
Nicole Pease, DCS

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Butch Estey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

a. December 15, 2015

Myron Steere moved to accept the minutes of December 15, 2015. Richard Dunning second.

Pierce Rigrod amended the minutes to reflect the addition that "minutes from technology meetings will be available" on page four of the minutes under Technology Plan Draft.

Unanimous.

3. Chairman's Recognition Award

James Wickham and Krystal Morin were present and recognized as recipients of the ConVal School Board Chairman's Award.

4. Points of Pride

Dr. Minnihan shared several Points of Pride which included recognition of work done at FES by facilities staff over vacation which included tiling and waxing of floors. In addition, Pierce School recently conducted a "Winter Wonderland Day at the Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH" which was very successful.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

Tim Markley referenced the resignation of Kallie Provencher effective December 23, 2015. Ms. Provencher had previously turned in her resignation for the end of June 2016 but submitted a change for December.

Myron Steere moved to accept the resignation as read. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Tim Markley referenced the nomination of Joseph Montano, Special Education Teacher at CVHS.

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Myron Steere moved to accept the nomination as read. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

b. Enrollment Report – January 1, 2016

Tim Markley noted little to no change in current enrollment figures.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Budget & Property Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the SAU.

Education Committee will meet on Monday, February 15th at 5:00 p.m. at the SAU.

b. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

- 1) Great Brook School requests authorization to accept a gift/donation totaling \$1,000.00 from Hollis & Fletcher Wilson for the purpose of sponsoring a GBS student on the Washington, DC trip, and some choir robes.

Stephan Morrissey motioned with gratitude to accept the donation as read. Myron Steere second. Unanimous.

8. Reports

a. Student Representative – River Marmorstein

River Marmorstein reported that students are getting in the swing of things, after having returned from Christmas break, with two weeks remaining until finals. He reported that the Alpine Ski team just did well at a recent meet.

b. Teacher Representative – Patrick Cogan

None.

c. Education Committee – Crista Salamy

Crista Salamy reported that Ms. Chandler and School Counselors spoke about aligning the counseling department for better flow K-12. Counselors spoke about the increased needs of students which aligned with the number of counselors in place. An update on SRSD was also provided. Most elementary schools have rolled SRSD out. Middle schools are a little more challenging; more of a learning curve. In addition, Crista reported that she has met with all of the elementary school principals to learn more about the amount of free time in the school day.

Butch Estey reported that the second and third year of the CVEA contract has been reviewed. He was pleased to announce an agreement with the CVEA. The agreement allows the administration to administer bonuses for outstanding performance. Health Insurance plans will have a higher deductible. Because of the cost, a step back to 90% was arrived at. The second year will be 88%. Chairman Estey said that he is pleased with the agreement. Mediation was utilized but an agreement was arrived at. Chairman Estey shared his appreciation for his team of negotiators.

9. Old Business

a. Budget Version (4A)

- 1) Peterborough Rotary Quest Program – Andy Peterson

Chairman Estey said that Budget 4A was arrived at with the removal of the QUEST Program.

Andy Peterson, Peterborough Rotary, was present to speak on behalf of QUEST. Mr. Peterson spoke about student performance and shared a recent yearbook from the program. This program is supported by volunteer efforts and charity raised funds covering 50% of the cost. This program cannot be sustained without the support of the school district. Mr. Peterson shared the generosity of local donors. The program has had a lot of support from Rotary members. QUEST has made a difference in student's lives. It helps combat the dips in summer learning. If the program continues, it will build spirit. Mr. Peterson shared his appreciation of the schools efforts and feels this program is a minimal part of the school budget.

Crista Salamy asked if more recent test scores were available. Mr. Peterson shared that much of the work lately has been spent on program development. Mr. Peterson reported that students come back from summer vacation with a decrease of up to 30% in test scores and declined reading levels. The QUEST program reflects that through the effort of staff and QUEST personnel, scores went up 3.4% to 10% in

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reading. In math, scores reflected a 40% increase over the previous spring. Mr. Peterson shared the value of relationship building for students being unplugged for one week. Mr. Peterson asked the board to vote to restore the program.

David Martz spoke about the number of students, 75, who participated in QUEST compared the total population of middle school students. He questioned the percentage increases as a result of 75 students participating. Discussion took place.

Dr. Minnihhan shared that the program is seen as valuable. Cutting the QUEST Program from the budget came as a result of having to identify over \$600K in cuts made in the budget.

Marian Alese reported that there have been cuts made to staffing, capital spending, and program cuts within the school's existing program. None of the decisions made were easy.

Stephan Morrissey asked how much was lost in state funding. Over \$200,000 was lost. He further said that judgements had to be made. Excellent programs were cut to meet budget needs. The money is the problem.

Andy Peterson agreed that the State ought to pay the money that the schools are due. Apart from that, this is something that exists in the budget and is not a major item. It is supported by volunteers and charitable support. It impacts education in a way that he hoped would give the board cause to continue.

Linda Quintanilha reported receiving two notes from parents in support of the QUEST Program and the difference it has made for their students.

Pierce Rigrod asked if there are still items in the budget such as equipment that might be removed. Marian said that what is left in the equipment line is student specific.

Marian said that if the board would like the administration to find another \$20K to eliminate they can look.

Pierce Rigrod shared his value over programming with the Harris Center. Cornucopia etc.

Peirce Rigrod moved to look for \$20,000 in furniture and other related items that are not absolutely necessary. Gary Backstrom second.

Dr. Minnihhan said that for this program to exist there are two options; add \$20K to the budget or ask the administration to locate another \$20k to eliminate in the proposed budget. Our problem is on the revenue side. At some point you can't keep imagining that this doesn't harm our educational programs.

Call the vote:

In favor of cutting another \$20K in the budget to fund QUEST: Gary Backstrom, Janine Lesser, David Martz.

Opposed: Majority.

Motion Failed

Motion to put \$20,000 in for QUEST. Myron Steere second.

In favor: 6

Opposed: 5

Motion carried.

Butch Estey asked everyone to get out and urge support of the school district budget.

Marian Alese reported that she has another version of the budget. The propane line was decreased by \$18,000 due to locking in prices. Other details require non-public discussion. Version 4A was \$175K. The next version is down \$18K as a result of the propane. The current version has other things happening.

Rich Cahoon asked for a report on "Fill the Void". The timeline reflects that approximately \$100K be raised by the end of 2015. He would like a report on the likelihood of a project. Confirmed for next meeting.

b. Rescind Policy (Board Vote Required)

- EEAF: Special Use of School Buses

Rich Cahoon moved to rescind this policy as it is no longer needed. Myron Steere second. Unanimous.

10. New Business

a. 1st Read Policies

- DFEA: Free Admissions

Rich Cahoon noted this for a first read. Send feedback to members of the Policy Committee.

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David Martz reported that he received a request to ask the Board for help on the pipeline issue. Mr. Martz asked the School District to apply for intervener status so that FERC would be put on notice of concern. Mr. Martz said that it is appropriate to do this. There is a 10 day window.

Rich Cahoon said that since this is not on the agenda, a vote of the board would be necessary to take this up for discussion tonight. Due to lack of posting it should be placed on a future agenda.

A poll of the board was asked for interest in taking this up for discussion

In favor: 3

Opposed: Majority

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Marian Alese certified that manifests totaling \$975,746.13 and Payroll totaling \$1,826,347.27 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 motioned to accept the manifests as read. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Personnel

Myron Steere moved to enter into non-public session at 7:56 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II for matters of negotiation.

Motion to exit non-public session at 8:11 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Rich Cahoon moved to approve the CVAA agreement as presented in non-public session. David Martz second. Crista Salamy abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

Myron Steere motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for 6 months. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Myron Steere moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 8:12 p.m. for personnel. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Myron Steere motioned to exit non-public session at 8:21 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Myron Steere motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for 6 months. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

David Martz moved to go with the base health plan ABSOS20/40 Rx10/20/45 \$1,000DED for all non-bargaining unit employees. Myron Steere second. Unanimous.

Butch Estey thanked the SAU for all of their work on this budget. He recognized the hard work that goes into building a budget.

Linda Quintanilha motioned to adjourn at 8:23. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

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