

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

(Snow Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2016)

**6:30 p.m.**

**SAU Office**

**Minutes**

*A Public Hearing to consider one proposed amendment to the Articles of Agreement submitted by petition will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 6:30 p.m., at the SAU Office, 106 Hancock Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire.*

In the interest of providing voters with an accurate and detailed assessment of the impact school closures have on communities, we are requesting that an impact study be required for any proposed school closure, consolidation or relocation. It is our opinion that school consolidation, closure or relocation has a substantial impact beyond just our school budget. It is our hope that voters are presented with honest information that assesses the impact such a measure would have on their property values, local businesses, traffic flow, law enforcement and most of all, on our children's futures. For these reasons, we are presenting the following amendment to the Conval School District Articles of Agreement for voter consideration.

To amend paragraph 5 of the Conval School District Articles of Agreement to read as follows:

5. The Contoocook Valley School District (ConVal) shall be responsible for grades one through twelve (1-12) and Kindergartens. Kindergartens were previously authorized by a vote at an annual Cooperative School District meeting. Grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be educated at the centrally located Senior High School in Peterborough. Grades five through eight (5-8) shall be educated at the Middle Schools in Antrim and Peterborough. Elementary Schools shall be maintained in Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, and Temple.

Any proposal, either petitioned, initiated by the school board, or administration considering school closures, consolidation and or relocation must be accompanied by a current, comprehensive and independent impact study that includes evaluating potential changes in property valuation, local business, traffic flow, traffic enforcement, student transportation, student participation in sports, extracurricular activities, class sizes, and community outreach. The impact study shall evaluate each township within the Contoocook Valley Regional School District separately and the final report will be made public at a minimum of three months prior to a public vote on the proposed closure, consolidation or relocation. The definition of "current" in terms of the independent impact study, shall mean a period of three years prior to a public vote. No school closure, consolidation, and or

relocation will become effective unless two-thirds of the voters of the District voting shall vote in favor of adopting the measure.

**Butch Estey called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

Dr. Minnihan said that this is an article from the public. He read the Petition Warrant Article above. Chairman Estey said that this is a petition warrant article from the public. The petitioner was delayed coming to tonight's hearing, therefore is not present tonight.

No comments from the public were expressed.

Butch Estey shared his concern for the word "shall" in the article. It creates a mandatory situation. In addition, the requirement that "an impact study on all towns within three years" is of concern. Chairman Estey shared his concern with some of the factors such as traffic, and the correlation between a closure in one town with another town.

Stephan Morrissey shared his concern that this limits what towns could do in terms of study. It might cause one large town to pull out rather than conduct a study. Small changes can be done right now and this article would change that. He said that he is not in favor of this article.

Rich Cahoon said that the board debated and voted on this and he questioned the debate as unnecessary tonight.

**Butch Estey closed the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok