

# OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road  
Peterborough, New Hampshire

## CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

### Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 22, 2018

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

### Minutes

**Present:** John Jordan (Hancock), Gail Cromwell (Temple), Henry Kunhardt (Francestown), Bob Marshall (Greenfield), John Robertson (Antrim), Carl Newton (Sharon), Pierce Rigrod, Bernd Foecking, Myron Steere, Kevin Pobst

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

#### **1. Accept Minutes of January 25, 2018**

**Gail Cromwell moved to accept the minutes of January 25, 2018. John Robertson second. Unanimous.**

#### **2. Budget**

John Jordan reviewed the warrant:

Article 1 – a decision has been made to borrow approximately \$1,000,000. The bond will be for a period of 5 years. Myron Steere agreed to double check on the terms of the bond. Gail Cromwell asked how people will know what they are voting for.

Bernd \$ 11,000 and \$12,000.

Myron Steere said that this was discussed in a public hearing on the bond. Carl Newton said that the details won't really be known until you get to that point.

Article 2 – John Jordan said that several towns support the ConVal School budget. John Jordan and John Robertson confirmed they support the school budget. Bob Marshall said that Greenfield has not voted as a board on the budget; he suspects that they would not support the school budget however, he as an individual supports it.

#### **3. Default Budget**

#### **4. Factfinder's Report**

Article 3 Factfinder's Report – the recommendation results in an increase in the first year of \$1,685,912.00. The factfinder was unaware of some of the historical decisions in the area of hiring with two fewer years than the actual experience level at the time of hire. The money needed to support that impacts this figure. ConVal is low on the starting pay; teachers association would like to increase the higher end of the scale rather than the lower end. Short term disability was offered and the CVEA did not accept it. The Factfinder verified that merit was a positive thing. Merit pay will remain. In addition, each FTE teacher was offered a \$2,000 raise and hourly paraprofessionals would have received \$1.00 per hour increase; the CVEA did not accept this offer. The board was open to going back to lane and grades. The board asked that new hires come in with a contract of additional days; it was declined. Transferring teachers can only take

place through volunteer; the SAU cannot assign. The result is that a school could have all brand new teachers with no seasoned teachers to mentor. Stipends for extra-curricular and athletics have not increased for a number of years.

Kevin Pobst said that a \$1.7M increase in compensation was asked by the factfinder. The factfinder has calculated the total of lane changes (hiring matrix), performance awards, merit etc. Is it accurate to say that the union did not want this figure to be as large? Myron Steere said that we offered steps and lanes; the union did not want to give anything up to go to steps and lanes. The union would not consider any of the three things asked. The board felt bad that an agreement was not reached.

Pierce Rigrod said that merit pay and the pay schedule are driving negotiations.

## **5. Special Meeting**

Article 4 Special Meeting should the Factfinder's Recommendation not pass:

John Jordan said that he cannot support a special meeting because people do not show up for it. Bernd Foecking said that the board would really like to get to a place where there is an agreement.

Capital Reserve Fund:

The Building Capital Reserve Fund would be drained. We need to put something back into it. Gail Cromwell recommended voting against all of the trust fund accounts. She cited figures in the budget. Pierce Rigrod said that the Facilities Department does a great job managing their work and doing as much of it in house as possible. They have done HVAC work and many other projects at a savings. Savings in electricity has resulted in response to initiatives put in place. John Robertson asked the value of all of the facilities in this district? Is \$800-900K a large maintenance budget? He didn't think so. If you don't take care of maintenance it costs more later.

## **6. Petitioned Warrant Article**

John Jordan said that the petition as written does not meet the standard required for change. Strategic Planning is working to develop a consolidation plan for the future. Administration has developed two plans; one for consolidation and one for reconfiguration; both are conceptual only. Nothing has been decided.

## **7. Strategic Plan**

Pierce Rigrod said that he does not guarantee a consolidation question on the ballot for 2019. We have committed to bringing a warrant article forward in 2019.

John Jordan said that we need to attract new business and new families to the district.

Bernd Foecking said that the cost increase on reconfiguration came from including a 205 day for new teachers. We don't have comparable information.

Bob Marshall recalled the impact of the Claremont Decision Forums back in the early 2000's. Students conducted the forum on the financial impact of this decision. The community identity is central to this conversation.

Pierce said that the enrollment numbers have stabilized. Over 15-17 years, enrollment has declined. We are leveling off in the schools. Pierce noted that SAC worries a lot about money. The district is getting hit with changes in law (SB193), and cuts in the funding that the district once received. It is going to continue.

Carl Newton noted that the current size of ConVal is near exact to what it was when the district was formed.

Pierce reported that the ATC Program is moving in the right direction. We have a manufacturing program in place, subscribed with 20 students, of which four are female. It is not costing the district or taxpayers a dime. They are leveraging resources with local manufacturing companies.

## **8. Other**

Gail Cromwell said that across the district, there are significantly different tax rates. Temple people are hurting; it is difficult to sell houses.

Discussion took place about changing the tax formula. It was in the opinion of many that it will never happen. Discussion took place about adequacy.

**Gail Cromwell motioned to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. John Robertson second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok