

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

Among the School Districts of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon and Temple

As copied from pages 17 through 20 of the FINAL REPORT of the Contoocook Valley School Study Committee dated January 1967 as amended through March 12, 1996.

1. The School Districts of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon and Temple shall be combined to form a Cooperative School District which shall be named Contoocook Valley School District.
2. There shall be thirteen members of the Contoocook Valley School District Board. The voters of each pre-existing district shall be entitled to elect members of the School Board at the organization meeting and thereafter to elect their successors, by voting separately and using a distinctive ballot at the organization meeting and at later annual Cooperative School District Meetings. The pre-existing Districts of Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Sharon and Temple shall be entitled to one member on the School Board, Antrim two members on the School Board, Peterborough four members on the School Board, each chosen from among the qualified voters of their pre-existing districts. The members of the Cooperative School Board who are elected and qualified at the organization meeting shall hold office until their respective successors have been elected at the annual meeting of the Cooperative School District held in the years indicated below:

Antrim	(1) member – 1968
	(1) member – 1969
Bennington	(1) member – 1970
Dublin	(1) member – 1968
Francestown	(1) member – 1969
Greenfield	(1) member – 1970
Hancock	(1) member – 1968
Peterborough	(2) members – 1968
	(1) member – 1969
	(1) member – 1970
Sharon	(1) member – 1969
Temple	(1) member – 1970

All members of the Cooperative School Board shall be elected for three years except those members elected at the organizational meeting. The members of the School Board shall assume office at the close of the organizational meeting and thereafter at the close of the annual meeting.

All members of the Cooperative School Board shall be elected by the use of the non-partisan ballot system under RSA 59.

3. The pre-existing districts, as united in this Cooperative School District, agree to support the enactment of future state legislation providing for the election of School Board members at the time and place of election of town officers in the towns with which the pre-existing districts coincide in area, under provisions similar to those of RSA 197:1-a to 1-g, insofar as applicable.

- *4. There shall be a Selectmen's Advisory Committee to consist of one member of the Board of Selectmen from each of the nine towns in the District. The Committee shall have the responsibility to meet with the School Board for District financial planning, inputs and other matters of mutual interest. It shall be the duty of the Cooperative School Board chairman to call an organizational meeting of the Committee within sixty (60) days after the annual School District Meeting.

*NOTE: This paragraph was amended by a ballot vote of 157 Yes, 14 No at the Annual Meeting held on March 27, 1978.

- *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) may be educated at the Middle Schools in Antrim and Peterborough. Elementary Schools shall be maintained in Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, and Temple. As school populations change, students from the Middle Schools may be reassigned to Elementary School locations. Such reassignment needs would be determined by ConVal Administration, but each location change would have to be approved by the School Board.

*NOTE 1: An attempt to amend the paragraph to all consolidation of elementary schools was defeated by a ballot vote of 119 Yes, 549 No at the annual meeting held on May 20, 1987.

*NOTE 2: This paragraph was amended by a ballot vote of 3180 Yes, 1210 No, at the Annual District Meeting Part 2, Voting in all Towns, March 14, 2006.

- *6. The Contoocook Valley School District (ConVal) was created by a process of consolidation involving the properties listed below. These properties were conveyed to ConVal for the purpose of establishing the District.

Antrim - Antrim Elementary School, High School, and Gymnasium
Bennington - Pierce School
Dublin - Dublin Consolidated School
Frankestown - Frankestown Elementary School
Greenfield - Greenfield Elementary School
Hancock - Hancock Elementary School
Peterborough - Peterborough Consolidated School
Temple - Temple Elementary School

*NOTE 1: The Antrim Community Memorial Gymnasium is utilized under a lease between the Town of Antrim and former Antrim School District as amended on December 30, 1967 to benefit the Contoocook Valley School District.

*NOTE 2: This paragraph was amended by a ballot vote of 3150 Yes, 1059 No, at the Annual District Meeting Part 2, Voting in all Towns, March 14, 2006.

7. School property cannot be disposed of without the town in which such property is located having the right of first refusal at a price not to exceed the fair market value as determined by an impartial agency, public or private.

*8. The expenses of the Contoocook Valley School District payable in each fiscal year shall be apportioned as follows:

a) Fifty percent (50%) on the average daily membership (ADM) of the pupils in public schools residing in each pre-existing district of the Cooperative School District as determined by the most recent school fiscal year figures available from the State Department of Education.

b) Fifty percent (50%) on the Total Equalized Valuation (TEV) of each pre-existing district of the Cooperative School District as determined by the most recent figures available from the State Department of Revenue Administration.”

*NOTE 1: An attempt to amend this paragraph to allocate costs on the basis of equalized assessed valuation was made at the Annual Meeting held on March 3, 1982. The Petition Article was postponed by a voice vote.

*NOTE 2: An attempt to amend this paragraph to base the apportionment 100% on equalized valuation was defeated by a ballot vote of 607 Yes, 362 No (not a 2/3 majority) at the annual meeting held on May 20, 1987.

*NOTE 3: Three different proposals were made to change Article 8 by ballot votes in each town in March of 1989. All three attempts failed.

a) 100% on average daily attendance.

b) 75% on equalized valuation and 25% on average daily attendance.

c) Same as (b), but distributed over four years.

Voted at each town in March of 1989.

*NOTE 4: An attempt to amend this paragraph to base the apportionment 75% on equalized valuation and 25% on the average daily membership of the pupils in public schools residing in each pre-existing district of the Cooperative School District was defeated by a ballot vote of 2,539 Yes, 1,647 No in each town (not a 2/3 majority) on March 8, 1995.

*NOTE 5: On March 8, 1996 this article was amended as follows:

a) Fifty percent (50%) on the average daily membership of the pupils in public schools residing in each pre-existing district of the Cooperative School District during the second preceding fiscal year as determined by the State Department of Revenue Administration.

b) Fifty percent (50%) on the equalized evaluation as most currently available as determined by the State Department of Revenue Administration.

Voted by ballot in each town on March 12, 1996, 3,470 Yes, 1,519 No.

*NOTE 6: On March 9, 2010, this article was amended as read above to include using the most recent fiscal year figures available for the DOE and DRA.

Voted by ballot in each town on March 9, 2010, 2,725 Yes, 893 No.

*9. A schedule of payments based upon the sum of the respective shares of the pre-existing districts for expenses was established as needed by the School Board with the advice of the Selectmen of the several towns comprising the Contoocook Valley School District.

*NOTE: This paragraph was amended by a ballot vote of 3177 Yes, 1081 No, at the Annual District Meeting Part 2, Voting in all Towns, March 14, 2006.

*10. All financial assistance from the State of New Hampshire to which a pre-existing district would be entitled if it were not part of the Contoocook Valley School District shall be credited to said pre-existing district. All such aid which may be available to the Contoocook Valley School District shall be applied to reduce the total operating and capital expenditures prior to the apportionment of costs under the provisions of Article 8.

*NOTE: This paragraph was amended by a ballot vote of 3157 Yes, 1002 No, at the Annual District Meeting Part 2, Voting in all Towns, March 14, 2006.

*NOTE: This paragraph was amended by a ballot vote of 2,815 Yes, 793 No, at the Annual District Meeting Part 2, Voting in all Towns, March 9, 2010.

11. All Trust Funds held by the pre-existing districts shall be held and applied to use in such pre-existing districts as the terms of the Trust of Trusts indicate.

12. The Contoocook Valley School District shall provide transportation for pupils in all grades supported by the Cooperative School District, to the schools maintained within the district, consistent with provisions of RSA 189:6, 189:8 and 189:9.

13. The School property and buildings of the Contoocook Valley School District may be used for such non-district purposes as may be required by the terms of any pre-existing grant or trust and for such other non-educational purposes as may be determined by policies adopted by the School Board.

14. The date of operating responsibility of the Contoocook Valley School District as provided in RSA 195:18 (III) (i) shall be July 1, 1968.

*15. These Articles of Agreement may be amended by the Contoocook Valley School District, consistent with the provisions of RSA 195:18 (III) (i), except that no amendment shall be effective unless the question of adopting such amendment is submitted at the town elections in each town of the District to the voters of the District voting by separate School District ballot with the use of the check list, and unless two-thirds of the voters of the District voting shall vote in favor of adopting such amendment. Furthermore, no amendment of these Articles of Agreement shall be considered except at annual town elections and unless the text of such amendment is included in the School District warrant for such town elections. It shall be the duty of the School Board to hold a Public Hearing concerning the adoption of any amendment to these Articles of Agreement at least ten days before the date of the annual town elections in the District and to cause notice of such hearing and the text of the proposed amendment to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the District at least fourteen days before such hearing.

*NOTE 1: This paragraph was amended by a ballot vote of 288 Yes, 97 No at the Annual Meeting held on March 16, 1988.

*NOTE 2: An attempt to amend the required vote for changing the Articles of Agreement from 66 2/3 to 60% was defeated by a ballot vote of 1887 Yes, 2274 No, at the Annual District Meeting Part 2, Voting in all Towns, March 14, 2006.

- *16. The Contoocook Valley School District (ConVal) Articles of Agreement can be most effective if they accurately reflect, to the extent practical, current conditions in the District schools and Administration. To achieve this result, the Articles of Agreement should be reviewed, and possibly updated, at least once every three (3) years. These reviews should be conducted by either the ConVal School Board or the ConVal Selectmen's Advisory Committee, or both. Any proposed revisions or updates that develop from this process must be ratified or authorized according to the stipulations in Article #18.

*NOTE: This paragraph was added by a ballot vote of 2994 Yes, 1224 No, at the Annual District Meeting Part 2, Voting in all Towns, March 14, 2006.

A true attested copy,

Marian Alese
ConVal District Clerk