

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

**Strategic Plan Committee**  
**SAU Office/Boardroom**

Thursday, March 15, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**School Board Committee Members:**

- Pierce Rigrod
- Richard Dunning
- Bernd Foecking
- Jim Fredrickson
- Kristen Reilly

**Present:** Richard Dunning, Bernd Foecking, Jim Fredrickson, John Jordan, Kevin Pobst, Niki McGettigan, Rich Cahoon, Myron Steere, Kimberly Saunders, Michelle Voto, Dr. Ann Forrest

**Bernd Foecking called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Approval of Minutes from February 15, 2018**

**Richard Dunning moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2018. Jim Fredrickson second. Bernd Foecking abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.**

**2. Old Business**

a. Model Questions & Refinements

Kimberly Saunders said that she is in the process of recalculating the cost of the two models. Should she continue? Several members confirmed that she should. Others asked if these are the two models that would be pursued. Discussion led to recognizing that the two models were meant as a jump off point.

Information was shared about what was put forward in the reconfiguration.

An overview of multi-age was shared on school improvement research. Kimberly recommended taking some time and seeing what Chelsea, VT is doing, it is the closest school that has gone through the exercise ConVal is considering.

Does work underway on reconfiguration model break out into pieces? Kimberly needs to know more about the lessons learned; what would you do/what wouldn't you do? Do any have 205 teaching days?

We said that we would look at models; we have talked about two models. The public is under the impression that we are looking at a consolidation and reconfiguration model.

These are two models only and never the two being brought forward.

Kimberly said that other schools who have reconfigured were identified.

Dick Dunning said that the board needs to make it clear to the public what they are considering for models.

Bernd Foecking said that he thought that the voters were told that something would go on the ballot next year.

Until we have a better understanding of how other districts do this, we will have unanswered questions.

A visit to some of the suggested schools will be organized to gather more information.

Kimberly will work to schedule a visit and report back before the next meeting.

b. SAU progress on Questions

A timeline to receive numbers outside the visit was asked. Kimberly estimated having reconfiguration costs by the meeting next month on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion took place about accurately assessing the cost and/or savings of staff in the reconfiguration model.

c. RFP for Economic Impacts (housing, etc.)

Kimberly is looking for help to design an RFP for this purpose. This is not her area of expertise. What is the economic impact on the closing of a school? Other impacts on the closing of a school were discussed; for example, what happens to the volunteer fire department. What is the overall impact on the closing of a school? Historical information on the impact in a town that closed a school is needed. Towns in the district would have a different impact based on land use zoning.

Kevin Pobst said that in the towns that closed a school were researched, it was found that there was already a decline in the town. Measuring the impact of a school closing is difficult.

Dick Dunning said that he has a hard time accepting the argument that if a school is closed young families will not move in. They aren't moving in now.

Bernd Foecking said that in the timeframe that we have and within the resources we have, a research project is more desirable. John Jordan will follow-up.

d. Community Visioning (Structure and Timeline)

Kimberly reported work underway with the NHDOE. We are in the Scholastic Community Engagement Project. A group will be trained in community engagement about personalized learning. "What does it look like and mean to the ConVal School District?" will be the focus. They will connect with the Board Communication Committee.

Scholastic will put out a press release on behalf of the district.

This fulfills the Petitioned Warrant Article that just passed this week. Kimberly will work with Scholastic to see how they want to share information with the community. A principal, staff member, and community member will be selected from each school.

e. Goal 1 Revisions (continued)

This work is complete.

f. Plan Date Changes (continued)

A date to bring everyone up to date on the status of the Strategic Plan is necessary.

Dick Dunning suggested a review of the Strategic Plan at a regular meeting.

Goal by goal, a status update, changes, and update on dates was suggested. The Strategic Plan is a living document. New things would be woven in possibly.

Reviewing one goal at each School Board meeting was suggested. Two goals at one meeting was further suggested.

### **3. Set April Meeting date for Revision Updates**

April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> were the School Board meeting dates set for Strategic Plan Review.

Looking at why some schools are declining in enrollment and others are not should be reviewed.

The research project should look at things such as affordable housing impacts on enrollment.

April 12<sup>th</sup> is the next Strategic Plan date.

### **4. Public Comment**

None.

### **5. Other**

None.

**Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Jim Fredrickson second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok