

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

School Board Meeting

6:30 P.M.

SAU Office

MINUTES

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning,
Jim Fredrickson, Bernd Foecking,
Janine Lesser, Niki McGettigan (6:36),
Stephan Morrissey, Kristen Reilly,
Pierce Rigrod, Crista Salamy,
Myron Steere, Jerome Wilson

Patrick Cogan, CVEA
Lily Denehy, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.
Mindy Ryan, B.A.
Tim Grossi, Dir. Facilities
Brian Grattan, Tech.
Gib West, CVHS
Kim Chandler, CVHS
Steve Bartsch, CVHS
Amy Janoch, HES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Myron Steere called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

a. April 3 2018

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the minutes of April 3, 2018. Dick Dunning second. Bernd Foecking and Jim Fredrickson abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

3. Points of Pride

Kimberly Saunders reported on various Points of Pride as shared with her by administrators.

4. Public Comment

Nancy Blair, Antrim, asked the Board to consider keeping both Family & Consumer Science (FACS) position in the middle schools 100%. Kids learn by doing and by project based learning. FACS supports core learning.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

1) Resignations 2018-19

CVHS – Catherine Riley – English Teacher
CVHS – Shawn King – Student Assistance Counselor
GBS – Kelly Marshall – Special Education Teacher
GES – Meghan Ham – Gr. 3 Teacher

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the resignations as listed. Jerome Wilson second. Unanimous.

2) Notice of Stipend Positions 2017-2018

Kimberly Saunders referenced these positions for notification only.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

The Education Committee will meet on April 30th rather than April 16th. Education Committee will meet once in May on May 21st.

b. Strategic Plan Update – Goals 3 & 4

Kimberly Saunders spoke about Focus Area 3.1.2 – Make a determination on whether to pursue multi-age/multi-grade as a District practice.

Rich Cahoon said that multi-age is part of the model but is independent of the reconfiguration model discussion. We have evidence that we have been mistaken that status quo is an option; further decline may be realized in terms of enrollment based on birth rates. We could see very small kindergartens in future years.

Rich Cahoon moved the board to consider a policy that a specific number in a class as a trigger that would result in a multi-age class size? Rich said that several towns have had fewer than 25 births overall in the last four years. This discussion needs to happen in advance to inform parents of the policy and practice.

Bernd Foecking spoke about the work and resources being put into developing reconfiguration and consolidation models together. A plan on what the school district will look like in the future should come first.

Multi-age and Multi-grade are two distinct differences. Distinguishing between the two is important. Why not have a policy on hand in the event that we need one?

If we moved to multi-age as a philosophy, we would look at it in all schools across the district.

Second. Unanimous.

3.3.2 – Models have resulted in the Strategic Plan Committee asking questions about reconfiguration and consolidation. A K-12 plan for service delivery would be needed.

Pierce Rigrod referenced ten questions that were asked and have been under consideration for some time. Kimberly said that the evaluation criteria includes community input.

Rich said that it is time to use the models that were formed to actually inform discussion. Those were not the models that were prepared to come forward.

Strategic Plan should talk about information gathered on the two models; take that information and use it to develop actual models that might be accepted in our communities.

Firm numbers are needed before further discussion can take place.

By January 8th, 2019, we need to have something to bring forward.

If you want feedback, before you draft a warrant, it will have to be done before the end of the summer.

The cost of closing an elementary school is needed.

Bernd proposed putting 3.3 and 3.5 on hold.

Niki McGettigan offered that more than bringing the cost to close an elementary school is needed. It might mean other options.

Kimberly Saunders suggested a subcommittee of the board meet and develop a list of criteria that includes what characteristics must be present in the district. The board needs to decide the goal.

Dick Dunning suggested that if consolidation is not a goal that each town fund and run their own elementary school. When is a small school too small?

Jerome Wilson spoke about restructuring the district within the parameters of the Articles of Agreement.

Discussion took place about changing the funding formula rather than close a school.

Are we going to put something on the ballot about closing schools? If not, how do we keep the small schools open responsibly?

Kimberly Saunders recapped that she is charged with developing a hybrid of the two models that is operational and involves closing some schools.

Jim Fredrickson suggested a multi-grade study with the four small schools.

Kimberly spoke about what the board is willing to accept. She cannot recommend gutting the buildings to three teachers; it is not the education that she would want to deliver to students.

Dick Dunning said that the board needs to say that an equitable education is important.

Kimberly suggested moving Goal 4 into the next meeting.

c. Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Substance Abuse Presentation

Kim Chandler, School Counseling Director, reviewed the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. It is a nationwide assessment conducted by the CDC and is administered every other year. It is the only baseline that we have that measures sexual behaviors, alcohol, tobacco, dietary and other behaviors of our students.

Trends reflect a decrease in the number of students who have driven a vehicle after having drunk alcohol since 2013. Alarming, over 40% of CV students surveyed feel that it is okay to take a prescription that is

not their own. It is easier for students to obtain marijuana than alcohol. Eleven students have reported using heroin. 35 students report being forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. Dating violence has not been the experience of forced sexual behavior. Dating violence is uncommon among our students. Students report (31) that they stayed home from school because they did not feel safe at school in the past 30 days.

21% of students report wanting to hurt themselves in the past 12 months. 31% students report feeling sad or hopeless over a period of time. 16.2% of students over the past 12 months report considering suicide. 46 students report taking action toward suicide.

ConVal has a "Signs of Suicide Program".

Youth Mental Health First Aid is in place to help adults recognize mental health or addiction challenges. Shawn King, Student Assistance Counselor, and Substance Abuse Task Force members Ed Walker, Robin Gregg, Judy Hertzler, Pamela Murphy, Laura Gourlay, Andy Wood, Officer Minichiello, Rebecca Dunn, Linda Scerbinski, Steve Bartsch, Dennis Calcutt, Kristen Reilly, and Dick Dunning are a fraction of the people that get together monthly to work on the issue of substance abuse.

Ed Walker, Peterborough Fire Chief, spoke about the evolution of the CV Substance Abuse Task Force.

Shawn King shared an ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Presentation. The correlation between substance abuse and adverse childhood experiences (trauma, abuse, alcohol, drugs etc.) multiplies depending on the number of adverse experiences.

Dick Dunning recommended that Board members review the videos listed on the Resource document distributed tonight. For teachers, students, and board members, the impact that ACES has on students and teachers is important. Having a safe environment allows students to deal with the adverse situations happening in their lives.

Taking care of teachers through mindfulness and professional development so that they can take care of students is also important. Kimberly added that additional professional development days were asked throughout the negotiation process.

d. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

- 1) ConVal School District requests authorization to accept a gift/donation totaling \$15,975.00 from Peterborough Rotary Charitable Fund for the purpose of supporting the Quest Camp.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the gift as stated with thanks. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

7. Reports

a. Student Representative – Lily Denehy

This week is spirit week at CVHS. Students will travel to France next week as part of an Art Week. Prom is May 19th at Franklin Pierce University. The Musical is 19th-21st.

b. Teacher Representative – Patrick Cogan/Linda Compton

Patrick Cogan reported that the scheduling of a *Meet & Greet* is underway. GBS PTO/Friends of Music held a yard sale which was successful. Report Cards will be coming soon. The GBS website shows photos of students on the Washington, D.C. trip.

c. Strategic Plan Committee – Bernd Foecking

Bernd Foecking reported that visits to schools where configuration options will be reviewed are being scheduled. The Development of Community Visioning is underway with Scholastic. Goals were reviewed and recommendations were made.

Bernd moved to extend 2.2.1 to the 8th grade with a 6/2020 completion date.

Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

d. ATC Committee – Stephan Morrissey

Stephan Morrissey reported the committee toured a new Maker's Space on Vose Farm Rd. People can gain instruction in a variety of different trades from welding, wood working, sewing etc. Connections might be considered for our students.

e. Education Committee - Crista Salamy

The Education Committee did not meet on April 16th but will meet next on April 30th.

8. Old Business

None.

9. New Business

a. Staff Nominations (Board Vote Required)

Annual to Annual Staff Nominations –

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the nominations of those on annual contract listed, to continue on annual contract. Jerome Wilson second. Dick Dunning abstained. Motion carried.

Annual to Continuing Nominations –

Stephan Morrissey moved to approve the nominations of those on annual contract to move to continuing contract. Jerome Wilson second. Dick Dunning and Kristen Reilly abstained. Motion carried.

Continuing to Continuing Nominations –

Stephan Morrissey moved to approve the nominations of those listed to remain from continuing contract to continuing contract. Jerome Wilson second. Dick Dunning abstained. Motion carried.

b. 1st Read Policy (pg. 9-12)

- ADD: Safe Schools

- EBB: Safe Schools

Rich Cahoon referenced these as a first read; send comments to the Policy Committee.

10. Public Comment

Bob Edwards said that the public is seeing that a model is not coming forward. He urged that this work go forward and that serious time be committed. It has to be well thought out and must go forward in March 2019. More time is needed to reach the goal.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Mindy Ryan certified that manifests listed totaling \$223,159.98 and Payroll totaling \$849,245.98 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.

Stephan Morrissey moved to approve the manifests as read. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

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

a. Personnel

b. Negotiations

Stephan Morrissey moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 8:58 p.m. for negotiations, personnel, student, and legal matters. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Stephan Morrissey motioned to exit non-public session at 10:00 p.m.

Stephan Morrissey motioned to seal the minutes for student matters indefinitely and to seal the minutes of all other matters in non-public for five years. Second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey motioned to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

ConVal Substance Abuse Task Force

Mission Statement: The ConVal Substance Abuse Task Force seeks to foster awareness and provide support for those affected by substance abuse and addiction.

GOAL

Inform key district stakeholders about the work of the CVSATF in understanding the connection between substance use, ACEs, and compassion fatigue.

Meet with district administration, school board and other key district stakeholder to share the work of the task force around the connection between adverse childhood experiences and substance use. Request time to support teachers in understanding the relationship between compassion fatigue and dysregulated student behavior. (2.1.2, 2.1.8)

ACTION:

1. By January, 2018, identify and schedule presentations with all key stakeholder groups: district administrators, school board, SWIFT Leadership, etc.
2. Prepare presentation, including how the task force work aligns with district strategic plan.
3. Request 30% of all staff professional development time, beginning in 2018-2019 school year, be designated for trauma-informed practices.

GOAL

Begin to develop a base of support for trauma-informed practices by strengthening staff understanding of ACEs and compassion fatigue through building specific opportunities.

Identify opportunities for the task force to engage any/all district personnel and contractors in education around ACEs, their relationship to compassion fatigue and strategies for bolstering professional resilience. (2.1.2)

ACTION:

1. Identify materials and opportunities to engage all individuals in the district, who interact with students, in ongoing awareness around compassion fatigue, self-care strategies and the connection with developing a safe classroom and school community.
2. Meet with school administrators to collaborate on ways to support all staff around compassion fatigue and the relationship to student behavior in the classroom.
3. Develop a toolbox for teachers for working with students who experience ACEs.

GOAL

Develop and implement four strategies for raising parental awareness of ACEs to be rolled out by June, 2018.

Provide non-judgmental communication and information to parents about ACEs, their relationship to substance use and ways in which they can access supports within the community. (2.1.7)

ACTION:

1. Develop a parent brochure in collaboration with area pediatricians, for their use during well-visits, which provides education and resources about ACEs.
2. Develop and present educational session during parent 'step-up' events to inform parents of the connections between ACEs and substance use.
3. Provide support for teachers with language for communicating with parents about ACEs.
4. Provide parent support groups at all levels.

RESOURCES



Videos for deeper understanding

<https://vimeo.com/189290361>

Adverse Childhood Experiences – ACEs

https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine_burke_harris_how_childhood_trauma_affects_health_across_a_lifetime

Nadine Burke Harris Ted Talk on Affects of Childhood Trauma On Health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leukLMYkykk>

Bruce Perry on Building Resilience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEHwB1PG-Q>

Fight, Flight or Freeze Stress Response

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ba_A43kzNBw

How Stress Affects your Body and Mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gm9CIJ74Oxw>

Dan Siegel hand model of the brain

<https://vimeo.com/110821029>

Paper Tigers trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsaorjIo1Yc&t=12s>

Vicarious Trauma

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urU-a_FsS5Y

Building Adult Capacities to Improve Child Outcomes



Book Recommendations

[The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma](#)

by Bessel van der Kolk M.D.

[The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity](#)

by Nadine Burke Harris M.D.

[The Pocket Guide to the Polyvagal Theory: The Transformative Power of Feeling Safe \(Norton Series on Interpersonal Neurobiology\)](#)

by Stephen W. Porges

[The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog: And Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook--What Traumatized Children Can Teach Us About Loss, Love, and Healing](#)

By Bruce D. Perry and Maia Szalavitz

[Childhood Disrupted: How Your Biography Becomes Your Biology, and How You Can Heal](#)

by Donna Jackson Nakazawa

ConVal Substance Abuse Task Force Members, 2017-2018

Jenny Ahlquist, Elementary School Counselor

Lee Ann Clark, Be the Change Facilitator, Monadnock Community Hospital

Steve Bartsch, Dean of Students

Judi Bernardi, High School Nurse

Dennis Calcutt, Project Director, Monadnock Region System of Care

Kim Chandler, Director of School Counseling

Emily Daniels, CEO, Here.This.Now

Alisha Davis, High School Culture Monitor

Mary Drew, CEO, Reality Check

Rebecca Dunn, High School Counselor

Dick Dunning, CV School Board, Former Principal

Kim Fairbank, Social Worker

JoAnn Fletcher, High School Counselor

Jen Geaumont, Transition Coordinator

Mary Goldthwaite, Teacher High School Visual Arts

Laura Gourlay, Middle School Counselor

Tania Grady, Teacher, Middle School Health

Robin Gregg, Elementary School Counselor

Judy Heddy, Teacher, High School Health & Wellness

Judy Hertzler, District Social Worker

Betsy Hinkle, Student Assistance Counselor

Tim Iwanowicz, Teacher, 5th Grade

Shawn King, Student Assistance Counselor

Eric Kostecki, High School Counselor

Greg Kriebel, Pediatrician, Monadnock Regional Pediatrics

Ben Moenter, School Psychologist

Pam Murphy, Elementary School Nurse

Natalie Neilson, Continuum of Care Facilitator, Center for Population Health

Kelly Parker, Middle School Assistant Principal

Kristen Reilly, CV School Board, Parent

Jacqueline Roland, Coordinator, Avenue A Teen & Community Center

Linda Scerbinski, Occupational Therapist, Parent

Gretchen Shippee, High School Nurse

Lucas Shippee, Internal Medicine Specialist, Monadnock Community Hospital

Jane Skantze, Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator, Center for Population Health

Stephanie Smart, Middle School Counselor

Jen Swasey, Elementary School Counselor

Mark Swasey, CV Athletic Director

Stephanie Syre-Hager, Elementary Principal

Julie Thibault, Business Owner, Parent

Michelle Voto, ATC Program Support – future ConVal Principal, Fall 2019

Ed Walker, Chief, Peterborough Fire and Rescue

Amy Wing, Manager-Student Transportation of America

Andrew Wood, Chief of Police, Hancock, NH