

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 23, 2018

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

Agenda

- 1. Accept Minutes of June 28, 2018**
- 2. Education Funding Letter**
- 3. Strategic Plan Option 3**
- 4. Auditor's Report Recommendations**
- 5. Other**

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Thursday, June 28, 2018

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

Minutes

Present: John Jordan (Hancock), Gail Cromwell (Temple), Karen Hatcher (Peterborough), Henry Kunhardt (Fracestown), Carl Newton (Sharon), John Robertson (Antrim), Ed Juengst, Myron Steere, Jerome Wilson, Pierce Rigrod, Kevin Pobst, Janine Lesser (7:10)

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

1. Accept Minutes of April 26, 2018

John Robertson moved to accept the minutes of April 26, 2018. Carl Newton second. Karen Hatcher abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

2. 2017-18 encumbrances, Surplus and Tax Impact

John Jordan shared a Budget Balance sheet that reflected balance information to date. John said that there is an anticipated \$750K to go back to the towns.

John Robertson asked if the DRA has a budget balance that is recommended. Myron Steere reported that the school district cannot maintain a budget balance. In the event of an emergency, insurance or capital reserve accounts are in place.

Gail Cromwell asked where the contracts are for the items on the budget document. She specifically referenced ALICE training; if there wasn't a contract it should not take place. Myron Steere reported that both the auditors and the DRA agreed it was acceptable to spend money on this item.

Gail further said that the payment schedule should be changed to reflect the anticipated return of \$750K.

John Jordan requested the School Board to allocate that surplus to be returned to the town.

Gail Cromwell moved to request that a new payment schedule be produced to reflect the return of \$750K.

Ed Juengst said that it is an estimate until the fiscal year closes. John Jordan requested that the figure be firmed up. Myron will get information to John.

Gail Cromwell requested a copy of the Auditor's report. A request to place the report on the website was made. Myron Steere confirmed.

3. Salary Schedule result from Factfinder vote

John Jordan shared an analysis of the salary schedule. The top raise was 39.5%. 44 teachers received 20% or more. 35 teachers received 15% or more.

Janine Lesser and Myron Steere echoed that the School Board did not support this agreement. We are lacking in the lower part of the salary scale for new teachers. The hope is that we will retain our teachers. Janine Lesser said that she has conducted a comparison to other school districts and it places us comparable in the middle and high levels but not for starting teachers.

Discussion took place about the impact on the taxpayer. Some have had to sell their homes as a result of taxes.

Carl Newton spoke about the impact on retirement as a result of increased salaries.

Pierce Rigrod noted that the State just put \$100 million into a "rainy day fund". They are not using any of that toward education.

Looking at the number of school administrators and salaries was suggested.

Myron Steere said that administration is being reviewed. We also have small elementary schools that have associated costs.

Co-curricular opportunities need review.

Karen Hatcher said that there is pressure on the district and the towns to support education without support from the State. What do we do to gather and lobby for funds from the State? They have money. How do we work together to access funds?

Pierce Rigrod reported visiting a school in Vermont of which the majority of the costs were provided by the State of VT. The remaining \$1M was raised by the town. Pierce said that the towns ask the school district to return unused funds, why wouldn't the towns ask the State back for unused funds?

Ed Juengst suggested a letter be drafted and signed by other towns to send to appropriate State staff to ask for monies. It is an election year.

Karen Hatcher said that Peterborough will take the letter on and provide a template to the other towns.

Kevin Pobst suggested that Karen Hatcher connect with the NH Association of School Boards.

Mr. Pobst said that he would love to see a scatter gram of the salary increases.

4. 2019-20 Budget Goal

Discussion based on this year's budget has been to create the next budget with a 3-4% increase or less.

Gail Cromwell said that the budget should be held flat; there is a surplus left every year.

What is the 3-4% based on? Teacher's salaries will go up. Discussion took place.

Reductions should be considered to offset the anticipated increase.

Gail asked that something be done about the supply line. The district budgets and never spends it and then budgets again and again in future years.

Pierce said that the inflation rate was looked at (2%). John Jordan said that it should be calculated on 2% of a living wage and not 2% of one's salary. Maintenance of effort was decided. Guidelines will evolve. Guidance for the district to look at the budget in more detail will take place.

Pierce said that 75% of the budget is personnel, the remaining is contractual. There is very little discretionary. There is one additional consolidation/reconfiguration model coming forward from administration for consideration for implementation.

5. 2019 Teacher Contract

John Jordan suggested a 0% increase in salary for teachers.

6. Strategic Plan Update

7. Transportation Estimates for Consolidation

Forty (40) more buses would be needed for a single start time across the district. A bus cost \$390 each day which equates to \$2,808,000.

The time of travel is already known. The calculations from the transportation are estimates. Solid numbers need to be in place to further discuss consolidation.

8. Other

Myron Steere reported on an agreement with the Town of Antrim for the gym. Myron outlined the process that took place with the town and the district related to cost sharing. The School District pays 100% of the heating and electricity costs, snow plow, handicap restroom, replacement lighting, cleaning of the gym, field care etc.

Myron asked if the school should pay 50% of the \$16,000 as requested. John Robertson said it was \$13,000+.

Gail said that the students at AES should be moved into GBS and the building should be given back to the town.

John Robertson said that the town has tried without success to review the agreement with no response back. Meetings have taken place to discuss what should happen with the floor. Discussion has taken place about usage.

Karen Hatcher motioned to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. John Robertson second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok