

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire**

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 25, 2018

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

Agenda

- 1. Accept Minutes of September 27, 2018**
- 2. Funding Formula**
- 3. Fall Mountain Formula**
- 4. Funding Formula ADM/EV Comparisons and Adequacy Aid**
- 5. Relative Tax Burdens**
- 6. Other**

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7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

Minutes

Present: John Jordan (Hancock), John Robertson (Antrim), Dale Gabel (Dublin), Henry Kundhardt (Francestown), Karen Hatcher (Peterborough), Kimberly Saunders, Myron Steere, Pierce Rigrod, Jim Fredrickson, Jerry Wilson, Kevin Pobst

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

1. Accept Minutes of August 23, 2018

John Robertson moved to accept the minutes of August 23, 2018. Karen Hatcher second. Unanimous.

2. Consolidation Implementation Planning

- Two (2) Select board members for Implementation Planning Committee

John Jordan referenced the Implementation Planning Committee and asked if anyone present was interested in serving on the committee. Karen Hatcher said that she is interested in learning more about the commitment being asked.

John Robertson suggested that a Selectperson from one of the towns proposed for consolidation might better serve the committee.

The School Board will need to make a decision about the direction pursued; changing the funding formula or consolidation. The charge is necessary before forming implementation committees.

Myron Steere said that further discussion will take place at the October 2nd School Board meeting; more will be known after that.

3. Considerations for Implementation Planning

- Effect on Communities
- Real Estate Values
- Transportation
- Renovation Costs
- Disposition of Buildings
- Funding Formula
- Other considerations

**4. Alternative Configuration, Each Town Pays for Its Elementary School
(Suggested at September 17 Schoolboard Meeting)**

John Jordan asked if the towns became responsible for the elementary schools how far would they be responsible. Kimberly Saunders said that in Fall Mountain, they have a very clear percentage break down of who pays for what. Each of those towns own their own buildings. More information would be needed.

Discussion took place about changing the funding formula. Pierce Rigrod reminded those present of a report, done by the previous Business Administrator that determined the current funding formula was the most equitable.

Setting a minimum ADM was cited as one possibility.

100% valuation was also cited as an example. Pierce said that this option would be the end of this school district.

Kimberly Saunders agreed to send the report out to Selectmen's Advisory Committee.

Keven Pobst said that he believed that the financial component was only one part, the other was the delivery of education.

Karen Hatcher said that a good communication plan and justification on the proposed plan would be needed for it to pass. This is the real challenge, the PR piece.

If we believe the best educational model is to consolidate, that should be promoted.

Pierce said that consolidation to three schools is thought to be impossible to pass. As a result, looking at other options (Fall Mountain) rose to discussion.

The problem is that we are thinning out our resources too much with smaller schools.

Kimberly said that there is pressure with the budget to keep it down. Push downs of 7% to 8% occur. Falling enrollment has not allowed the district to decrease the budget comparably. Staffing has been reviewed in relation to student population and it has corresponded.

Middle and high school opportunities are important to manage at that level.

Kimberly said that the current model is an inefficient way to run. It doesn't mean she doesn't support the community schools. It is her job to state that it is inefficient and the board and towns can decide what to do with this information.

Karen Hatcher said that it is important to tell our communities the whole story; given the circumstances that we find ourselves in, we have to do our best to communicate the issue. Seeking out politicians to discuss the issue is important.

John Jordan said that the problem may be more on the revenue side than expenses.

Kimberly reported that cost per pupil is \$16,600 at elementary \$19,600 and \$18,600 at high school. The average is \$18,200 per pupil.

Pierce Rigrod noted that if there is a consideration of the funding formula, it could mean a swing of \$.5M to \$1M of moving money from one town to another. It is a big consideration.

The question is, is it about finances or is it about education. At what point is it not sustainable? Is this something we need to act on and do now?

Kevin Pobst asked how severe the concern really was with finances given the huge contract that was just passed. Discussion took place.

Karen Hatcher said that we need to educate people to take on education funding at the state level.

5. Other

Karen Hatcher reported on the letter sent out on education funding. Karen will be meeting with the Monadnock Ledger Transcript in the morning to discuss the letter further. Karen has been to a number of Education 101 meetings. Copies of the letter have been shared at these meetings. It needs to gain momentum and the media piece is the next step. Small community meetings might take place to explain education funding in this state.

Pierce Rigrod asked a sense of those present on either a consolidation model to a four school system or go with an adjustment to the funding formula. What would be favored?

Next month's SAC meeting will address the funding formula. What are we paying for it and what we are getting for it will be reviewed.

What do the towns favor? Is it the cost? Is it saving a small school? Is it education?

What is the philosophy behind changing the funding formula? How will it make it more equitable? Pierce said that if the minimum ADM is set to inflate slightly, a town would pay more than they would otherwise. It would require 66% vote to close schools.

Figuring out the funding formula might be the next right step to take if the consensus in the towns is to maintain an elementary school in their towns.

Pierce said that if a great model to deliver education came forward that everyone loved, consolidation might be possible. We don't have that model. The four school model is not preferred. It is a non-starter.

Discussion took place about magnet schools and charter schools.

John Robertson suggested that the effort be placed on changing the funding formula.

Jim Fredrickson said that showing the tax result for various funding formulas at the next meeting would be valuable.

Next month's discussion will be on the funding formula.

Discussion took place about the cost of out placements and the impact that would have on an individual town. There are good reasons to stay together and operate as one district. Each town is facing the same pressures.

The group was in agreement to look at the funding formula over consolidation.

Dale Gabel said that it is expensive by design to educate our students. The decrease in students doesn't mean we can get rid of anything anywhere.

Jim Fredrickson suggested adding a communication piece to the next agenda and invite Niki McGettigan.

Adequacy Aid is distributed by town as formulated by the State.

In other news, Kimberly Saunders reported that between \$800K and \$850 is anticipated to be returned to the towns. The science renovations came in under budget unofficially by almost \$340K.

John Robertson motioned to adjourn at 8:36. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok