

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

7:00 p.m.

SAU Office

Minutes

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning,
Jim Fredrickson, Janine Lesser,
Niki McGettigan, Stephan Morrissey,
Kristen Reilly, Crista Salamy,
Myron Steere, Jerome Wilson

Molly Janoch, Student Rep.
Marina McMahon, Student Rep.
Asher MacLeod, CVEA Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Tim Markley, H.R.
Mindy Ryan, B.A.
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.
Ben Moenter, Special Education
David Jack, Interim B.A.
Amy Janoch, HES
Kathie Morocco, Pierce School

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Myron Steere called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Accept School Board Meeting Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. October 16, 2018

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the minutes of October 16, 2018. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

3. Points of Pride

Superintendent, Kimberly Saunders shared various Points of Pride as reported to her by administrators.

In particular, the ConVal High School Boys Varsity Soccer Team won the first ever DII Championship Game on Saturday, November 3rd. In addition, on Sunday, ConVal's Unified Soccer team became the State Champions for the second year in a row.

4. Public Comment

Alan Edelkind, Dublin, shared his perspective on two issues; consolidation and the funding formula. For many sessions, he has listened to the board talk about consolidation and it being student centered; what do we want for our students in various area? Savings has been a part of that conversation.

After listening more, he hears that there is not a lot of support from the Selectmen's Advisory Committee on anything to do with consolidation. It is thought that it would fail if brought to a vote. Something had to be done. The Board promised something would be on the ballot so the funding formula discussion evolved as a result.

The board confirmed Mr. Edelkind to continue beyond the two minutes allowed.

Mr. Edelkind said that changes to the funding formula will accomplish almost nothing. It would come out of different pockets. What would happen is that the amount for the smaller towns would go up. It would come for a vote. It would likely be voted down, which would result in accomplishing nothing. Let's assume that the funding formula is voted in. The signal that is sent to the voters is that the only thing that we can deal with is the funding and students are secondary. Small town increases already in place, coupled with the changes in funding formula, backdoors consolidation. We are asking voters to vote with their pocketbook and not on what is best for students. He thought the board should be centered on students.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

MISSION STATEMENT

The ConVal Regional School District, in partnership with its member communities, will inspire all learners to achieve academically, contribute to the global community, and thrive as independent and productive citizens.

- Nominations 2018

Stephan Morrissey moved to approve the nomination of Kristin Bay, Special Education Teacher at PES. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

- Retirements June 2020

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the retirement of Marcia deSteuben in June 2020. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

- Co-Curricular Stipends

Co-Curricular Stipend information was shared for notification purposes only.

b. November 1, 2018 Enrollment Update

Tim Markley referenced the November 1st enrollment data.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Policy Committee was cancelled on December 4th.

Selectmen's Advisory was cancelled on December 20th.

b. Acceptance of Gift(s) (Board Vote Required):

- 1) Temple Elementary School requests authorization to accept a donation of \$500.00, donated by Toni Mahoney, for the purpose of supporting field trips.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the donation as read. Jerome Wilson Second. Unanimous.

- 2) ConVal Regional High School requests authorization to accept the gift/donation of a Sartorius Analytical Balance from the Monadnock Community Hospital, valued at \$1,800.00 for the purpose of measuring precise quantities of chemicals (to 0.0001 grams) particularly for AP Chemistry Labs.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the donation as read. Jerome Wilson Second. Unanimous.

7. Reports

a. Student Representative – Molly Janoch/Marina McMahon

Marina McMahon reported a blood drive coming up this week. She confirmed that it was a huge weekend for athletics. Lastly, Austrian exchange students were recently hosted.

b. Teacher Representative – Asher MacLeod

Asher MacLeod reported that staff completed hours of parent conferences today. In addition, the Manchester Monarchs visited one of the schools as well.

c. Budget & Property Committee – Jim Fredrickson

Jim Fredrickson reported that preparation for Saturday's meeting occurred. Interested citizens attended to talk about solar energy.

d. Communication Committee – Niki McGettigan

Niki McGettigan reported that the committee moved forward on the website work by adding resources. Special thanks to Helfried Zrzavy who has been helpful uploading information. A white paper is underway to explain the budget process. The committee is looking to hold a training on Google Docs to collaborate among the board.

e. Food Service Committee – Kristen Reilly

Kristen Reilly reported that Café Services presented many answers to questions that were asked. Kimberly will be meeting with a local director to discuss further.

Kristen reported that the committee also has a new student serving on it; Savannah Lee.

f. Selectmen's Advisory Committee – John Jordan

Kimberly Saunders reported that the apportionment analysis was reviewed, in large part, at the meeting.

Myron Steere reported that a community member reported their appreciation for use of the PES Soccer Fields for practice.

8. Old Business

a. Budget 2019-2020

Kimberly reported that the budget is up 2.08%.

Jim Fredrickson said that although it is good, it does not include the impact of the teacher's contract.

Mindy Ryan reported out on what is included in this budget version. Between increases added and items removed, it is not too much higher.

Adjustments were made to Guaranteed Maximum Return (GMR); to bring it to \$100K off of savings. A 2.2% GMR was used. In this budget, health budgets are at 2.2% GMR.

Rich Cahoon agreed to use 2.2%. Confirmed.

Myron Steere reported a conversation with a community member who shared his disappointment that students did not take the running start credit but take the course.

Molly Janoch said that she has taken two classes but some have an AP exam tied to them. She could either take the Running Start course and get college credit or take the AP Exam and some colleges would accept that over a Running Start transcript.

Dick Dunning noted that District Assessment (DA) is up 4.72%.

Kimberly Saunders said that the gross budget is -0.13%. DA is based on that apportionment; how much money would have to be raised; \$33M vs. \$31M last year; so it is up. The operating budget is up 2.08%.

The board was asked to review the information, drill down, and to ask questions.

The assumption on adequacy is based on kindergarten numbers continuing. Confirmed. However, new updated numbers will come forward.

Information on Special Olympics was shared as previously requested.

The budget drill down session on November 13th will result in additional information and questions.

Dick Dunning asked for identification of what items fall under line 890, miscellaneous. Information will come forward.

b. Funding Formula

David Jack shared a spreadsheet sent from the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and the Department of Education (DOE). It takes the budget, looks at revenues, and arrives at a local tax assessment. The budget is essentially \$48M and there are approximately \$5M in revenues coming in. The education tax is collected in each town. Adequacy tax is individualized; the \$43M (differenced between \$48 and \$5M) is individualized by town. State aid of \$11M and the \$5M is divided individually by town. ADM and EV is 50/50 split. A combined percentage is arrived at that has to come out to 100%. Calculations take place resulting in Local Tax Assessment.

This information was used to develop various apportionment scenarios (see attached).

There is no clear cut answer here. Each scenario impacts the towns differently; some significantly. There is no piece here that works well for everyone; disadvantages are created for some towns from where they are today.

Jim Fredrickson asked that the percentage of change be added to the spreadsheet. Confirmed.

Another scenario, if a school has fewer than 60 students in it, a "surcharge" to remain smaller but bring revenue in to the larger schools was created. Dublin, Frankestown, Hancock, and Temple were looked at. In this scenario, \$31,781,484.18 (Local Tax with surcharge) was divided by 2,140.73 (ADM).

The \$578K was added to the assessment of the individual towns noted.

This scenario does not change the bottom line but the efficiencies in schools are equalized to remedy the discrepancy.

Rich Cahoon thanked Mr. Jack for running these scenarios.

Rich said that he favored using the minimum student count because it is not as permanent; if population changes the apportionment could change without changing the funding formula.

Dick Dunning agreed that using the figures calculating class minimums was appealing.

Kimberly asked the board for direction: Use 80, 70, and 65 students in a school as a minimum was requested. In the case of DCS, a higher number should be used as a result of grade 5.

How would one put this into a warrant article that would address this kind of change? If it is put into a warrant article, is it legal since students are not really there; it is a surcharge. What the warrant would look like would be complicated. Our legal would draft the warrant.

Shifting some of the costs to the towns with some of the smaller schools is the thought. Those towns would pay the cost or consolidation might be considered.

Kristen Reilly said that we do want to address the student equity piece too.

c. 2nd Read Policy Adoption (Board Vote Required)

- BBA: School Board Powers and Duties

Rich Cahoon moved to adopt this policy as read. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

- BEDB: Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

Rich Cahoon moved to adopt this policy as read. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

9. New Business

a. 1st Read Policy

- JKAA: Use of Restraint, Seclusion, and Physical Contact

Rich Cahoon referenced this policy as a first read. Please send feedback to the Superintendent.

b. Crisis Counselor Position

Kimberly Saunders reported the need for a Crisis Counselor to be reinstated. This position was part of a previous reduction in force. This additional position is needed at the high school. We have the funding for this in the current budget. It would be considered an old/new position. This position is in the numbers worked with today.

Cari Christian-Coates reported that the position went open as a result of a resignation. The position didn't disappear because we didn't need it. We have seen an increase in the number of appointments with students so far this year compared to last. Increases in the nursing department are apparent as well and they are directly related.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the justification for this position for this current year.

Dick Dunning asked if there is any thought about the reason for the massive increase. Cari Coates reported that we have one less person meeting the needs of students resulting in an increase in nurse visits.

Dick Dunning said that we have money in this budget but the plan was not to fill it. Kimberly confirmed that it was not filled as a result of having to find dollars as a result of the fact finder's report. We tried to do that through attrition rather than eliminating positions.

Dick asked if we had a need we were hoping would not happen. Now that we are in the school year and we are seeing students needing support. His concern was that the need was recognized at the end of last year or over the summer.

Cari said that there was never a time that there was not a need for these two positions. The load is too much for one person.

Rich asked what percentage of time this person serves as a Truancy Officer. Unsure because the responsibilities of this position are under evaluation as to whether or not they should be together Truancy Officer/Student Support Counselor.

The position in place, last year was SSC/Truancy and supported the two middle schools. Never have they been able to support the two middle schools. By putting this position back at the high school, the Student Assistance Counselor will be able to support the two middle schools.

Dick Dunning agreed that they should not be the same person. He supported the counselor and sees the needs. He shared concerns with the number due to lack of staffing. The long term effect of reductions should be looked at.

Kristen Reilly said that she believed that there was always a need.

Crista Salamy said that eighth grade students enter and needs are unknown.

Kimberly Saunders said that when we do a RIF, there was not a position on the list that was not needed. They were difficult choices. The direction was to go through attrition first.

Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous to add the position.

c. 1:1 Paraprofessional Position

Rich Cahoon moved to approve the position. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Mindy Ryan certified that manifests listed totaling \$1,114,748.19 and Payroll totaling \$2,703,155.06 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. Legal

b. Personnel

c. Negotiations

Stephan Morrissey moved to enter into non-public for personnel and legal at 8:28 p.m. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning moved to exit non-public session at 8:50 p.m. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey moved to seal the minutes for the first item for 10 years and the second item for three years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept payment of buyback. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey motioned to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok