

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**School Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 4, 2018**

**SAU Office**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**BOARD**

Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning,  
Jim Fredrickson, Janine Lesser,  
Niki McGettigan, Stephan Morrissey,  
Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly,  
Pierce Rigrod, Myron Steere,  
Jerome Wilson

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

Kimberly Saunders, Supt.  
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.  
Tim Markley, H.R.  
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.  
Ben Moenter, Special Ed.  
Mindy Ryan, B.A.  
Nicole Pease, DCS  
Fabiola Woods, TES  
Kat Foecking, FES

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Myron Steere called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**2. Points of Pride**

Kimberly Saunders reported out on Points of Pride as reported to her by administrators.

Janine Lesser thanked the teachers who worked with the artists in residence on the lantern parade in Peterborough this past weekend. It was clear that teachers worked very hard. She said that it was gorgeous.

**3. Public Comment.**

Alan Edelkind, Dublin, spoke about the issue of the budget as it relates to elementary school closings. He said that the closing of the school is a budget issue in three components; financial, special services, and educational aspects. He reported that he spoke to many people; some educators. They report no detailed study to support that small schools receive less of an education than the larger schools. Small schools have better educational opportunities at the elementary level.

**Linda Quintanilha moved to allow Mr. Edelkind additional time to speak. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.**

Closing Dublin and Temple Elementary Schools is a proposed warrant article. There is no analysis conducted to support these closings. The surcharge of schools with fewer than 65 students is also proposed; also requiring a change to the Articles of Agreement requiring a 2/3's vote.

**Stephan Morrissey moved for additional time. Second. Unanimous.**

The surcharge would require a change to the articles and is subjective; there is no analysis to say that is the magic figure. Lastly, the funding formula takes it from one pocket and places it in another; the budget remains the same. Some of the smaller towns would pay more due to formula changes. Consolidation is a no go with the voters. But, something has to come forward to the voters. Nothing is coming together. More options are being thrown on the table. No agreement comes out of the meetings. Petition articles have to be submitted in early January. Mr. Edelkind suggested asking the voters to allow or direct the board to put a

*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.*

detail analysis of the current state as a warrant. What are the educational pros and cons and give the voter the opportunity to make a decision?

Corey Boyd spoke about four options under consideration and reported on points to consider. She handed out a request (see attached). Her final request was that a vote not be taken tonight on the closing of Dublin absent the Dublin School Board rep tonight.

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

##### **a. December 1, 2018 Enrollment**

Tim Markley referenced the December 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment information (see attached).

#### **5. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business**

##### **a. Monthly Events Calendar**

###### **- Set Date of District Meeting Part I**

The date for District Meeting Part I (Deliberative Session) was scheduled on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. with a snow date on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Either meeting will take place at ConVal High School in the gym.

###### **- Set Date of Budget Public Hearing**

The date for the Public Hearing on the proposed budget was scheduled on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with a snow date of Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Either meeting will take place at the SAU Office.

In addition, the January 2019 Education Committee meeting was scheduled on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the SAU Office.

##### **b. Accept Gift/Donations (Board Vote Required)**

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

**Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the donation as presented. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

- 2) Temple Elementary School requests authorization to accept a gift/donation of \$1,000.00 from The Temple 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund for the purpose of helping to purchase a slide for the playground at Temple Elementary School.

**Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the donation as presented. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

#### **6. Reports**

##### **a. Student Representative – Molly Janoch/Marina McMahon**

Molly Janoch reported on a food drive taking place for two weeks. Next week, there will be a clothing drive. Student Council met with staff and received feedback about decreased school spirit. Ideas to increase spirit will be discussed.

##### **b. Teacher Representative – Asher MacLeod**

Asher MacLeod reported that FES, TES, and SMS had great turnouts at their craft fairs. The SMS concert is scheduled for next Wednesday and GBS will hold theirs tomorrow night.

##### **c. Food Service Committee – Linda Quintanilha**

Linda Quintanilha reported that the committee is looking closely at the summer food program. The program services a number of areas but ConVal funds the bulk of the cost. Recouping costs is under consideration.

##### **d. Selectmen's Advisory Committee – Bernd Foecking**

John Jordan reported discussion about the proposed warrant articles for a surcharge to smaller schools and closing of schools as well. The funding formula was changed years ago. SAC hopes the focus back to the State will provide better for funding education.

#### **7. Old Business**

##### **a. Budget Discussion**

#### a. Budget Discussion

Warrant Articles for capital reserves were discussed.

Building Funds – Jim Fredrickson said that we don't have final numbers on the high school science lab project. The plan was to take \$900K+ from the trust, but only \$50K is needed. The Capital Reserve Fund balance will be \$1.25M. With this in mind, things need to be done. Jim Fredrickson recommended that \$250K be allocated to the fund.

Dick Dunning said that given where we stand, we know all of the buildings need work done. If we don't have enough we short change; if we have too much, we can give it back.

If the budget does not pass and we have a default, it is unlikely funds will be available for capital reserve funds. These are tied together.

**Jim Fredrickson moved that a warrant to allocate \$250K for the Building Trust fund be placed on the ballot. Dick Dunning second. Pierce Rigrod abstained.**

Rich Cahoon suggested that Special Education place second on the list for warrants.

Jim Fredrickson reported an estimated balance would put the fund at \$310K.

**Stephan Morrissey moved that a warrant to allocate \$200K for the Special Education Trust be placed on the ballot.** Jim Fredrickson said that if we set a budget and if there is money left, we are able to fund the capital reserves in the order placed on the ballot.

**Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

Equipment Capital Reserve – an estimated \$180K balance at the end of the year is projected.

Rich Cahoon said that we know we will purchase equipment. Anything we put in this year is money that

**Rich Cahoon moved that a warrant to allocate \$100K for the Equipment Capital Reserve fund be placed on the ballot. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.**

Health Maintenance – the projected balance at the end of the year is 290K.

Kimberly Saunders said that we did not budget to the maximum risk both last year and this year. Our GMR is 4.2%. \$175K would be needed to be accessed if needed to get to the 4.2%.

The recommendation is not to place this as the next priority.

**Pierce Rigrod moved that a warrant to allocate \$50K for the Health Maintenance fund be placed on the ballot. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.**

Athletics Fund - **Stephan Morrissey moved not to have a warrant article for this purpose. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.**

#### b. Default Budget

The default budget is looking to be at least a million plus dollars lower than the proposed budget. Further discussion in non-public. Direction is needed.

#### c. Consolidation

No discussion.

#### d. Changes to Funding Formula

Legal advice has been received. Further discussion in non-public.

### 8. New Business

#### a. Clerk of the Works

Kimberly Saunders reminded the board that \$10K to hire a Clerk of the Works was budgeted for the science room project. Tim Grossi took this role on in addition to his day to day work. She asked consideration that Mr. Grossi be paid a portion of that money for his work on the project. Tim Grossi and Bob Edwards were part of the reason that this work came in under budget and on time.

**Stephan Morrissey moved to approve a stipend of \$5K to Tim Grossi for this work. Dick Dunning second.** Jim Fredrickson said that he clearly endorses this recommendation.

Bob Edwards said that a previous allocation was made to Mr. Grossi of \$1,500.00. Discussion ensued. Is this in addition to the \$1,500 or in place of? In place of.

**Unanimous.**

## **9. Public Comment**

None.

## **10. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)**

Mindy Ryan certified that manifests listed totaling \$468,879.42 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 pay the bills. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

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

- a. Negotiations**
- b. Personnel**
- c. Legal**

**Stephan Morrissey moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II for matters of negotiations, personnel, legal, and student matters at 6:48 p.m. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**Stephan Morrissey moved to exit non-public at 7:51 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Stephan Morrissey motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for matters of negotiation for a period of five years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Stephan Morrissey motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for matters of personnel for a period of five years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Stephan Morrissey motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for matters of legal for a period of ten years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Stephan Morrissey motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for student matters for a period of perpetuity. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Stephan Morrissey moved to apply the principal salary adjustments. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous.**

Stephan Morrissey spoke about a proposed warrant article.

Kimberly Saunders recommended noticing on future agendas for discussion purposes.

**Stephan Morrissey moved discussion about a proposed warrant article to the next School Board agenda. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Linda Quintanilha motioned to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

Warrant articles under consideration by the SB

- a. Close DCS and Temple elementary schools. This will be an article 5 modification.
- b. Surcharge schools that have less than 65 children.
- c. Changes to funding formula (currently 50/50).
- d. Consolidation (4 school).

Points to consider.

- a. There is NO study that has been done to show that the education given to children in the small schools is any way inferior to the education in the larger schools. Before anything is done there needs to be an objective assessment performed.
- b. There is NO study as to how much would be saved by closing these schools balanced against the cost of transporting the students, maintaining a closed school and other associated costs. There is only one side of the ledger even being thought of.
- c. How long will the students now have to be on busses if local school is closed? We are also exposing the students to more risks being on busses. What happens to students that have their parents take them to/from school? Will there now have to be a consolidated drop off and pick up point that would have to be maintained (staffed) to ensure safe transfer? The schools considered for closing are at the farthest distances from the center.
- d. Why is only DCS and Temple being considered for closing when Frankestown will only have 1 more student than DCS.
- e. What is a "small" school? The 65 pupil figure does not correlate to the small school. Is it 50? 60? 65? What is the definition point? Is it based on what each school's maximum capacity is? How is this determined?
- f. Where did the 65 figure come from for "Surcharging" the small school. It was thrown out at the last meeting with no factual underlying basis.
- g. The Surcharge is currently calculated at \$14,000 for EACH count that is under 65 for each school. I.e.: If DCS has 55 population then the surcharge for DCS for 1 year would be \$140,000. Even with that, the surcharge is equal for all under populated affected schools meaning all schools are equal in their assessments (cost per student) and they aren't.
- h. There MUST be objective criteria established as relates to 5<sup>th</sup> grade at DCS and parents wants to move their students to another school.
- i. As to the issue of "special" services needing to be made available in all schools (I.e. full time nurse). Study needs to be done as to whether this is a requirement, based on need, or whether a student requiring certain special services can take advantage of them at another school vs. the local school. Conflicting opinions on this.
- j. There is no logic behind the changes to the funding formula. The changes DO NOT decrease the budget at all. Just takes different amounts from each town. End result would be larger payment from small towns and decrease for large towns. Changes could also affect towns whose property assessments are higher than other towns. Is there a way to determine how school tax factors in as a percent of ones entire tax bill?
- k. Consolidation is speculated to save approx. \$2,000,000 per year on the budget, but again there is no other side of the ledger to see the costs of consolidation. No itemized ledger of fixed and variable costs has been produced to have a more firm number for what consolidation will actually save the district.

- I. None of the 4 above plans for changes in the district have been fully vetted. We are being asked to make critical/long term/non reversible decisions without having all of the facts.

Point being.

With the above (and probably more) being true, as the SB feels the need to "put something on the warrant and are running out of time," then I suggest the following:

1. Clearly have the SB state that there is no quantifiable difference in the education students receive in any school that directly relates to student population.
2. Have SB agree to take other warrant articles off the table as relates to this discussion.
3. On the issue of special service's needs: Have the SB get a definitive answer on consolidated special services.
4. Have the SB construct a warrant article to authorize them to contract with an outside expert on the financials involved with the current running of the school system and also the financials involved with the consolidation option. 1,2,3...year projection. Wording can be constructed by the SB as long as the intent is kept. SB can, as Bernd suggests, limit the scope.
5. If the fear is that we won't get anything we don't already know then it is still a worthwhile expenditure/exercise and we can then vote up/down on consolidation next year.

Grade SCHOOL	Total	73 Pre-School	139 Kindergarten	162 1st Grade	125 2nd Grade	156 3rd Grade	138 4th Grade	793 Total	FTE Teachers
AES	12.3.18	37	26	29	23	25	26	166	12
	# of Students	2	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Ratio	18.5	13.0	14.5	11.5	12.5	13.0		
BES			Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	76	5
	# of Students	12	1	19	14	14	17		
	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Ratio	12.0	12.0	19.0	14.0	14.0	17.0		
DCS			Kindergarten	1st & 2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th & 5th Grade	6 + 8 = 14	51	4
	# of Students	12	1	7 + 4 = 11	14	14	1		
	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Ratio	12.0	11.0	11.0	14.0	14.0	14.0		
FES			Kindergarten	1st & 2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	4th Grade	52	4
	# of Students	10	1	10 + 6 = 16	17	9	9		
	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Para	1	Para	1	1	1	1		
	Ratio	10.0	10.0	16.0	17.0	9.0	9.0		
GES			Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	88	6
	# of Students	15	1	14	11	18	11		
	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Ratio	15.0	14.0	14.0	11.0	18.0	11.0		
HES			Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd & 4th Grade	4th Grade	49	4
	# of Students	19	1	12	10	16 + 1 = 17	11		
	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Ratio	19.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	17.0	11.0		
PES			Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	272	17
	# of Students	17	45	55	46	46	59		
	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Ratio	17.0	15.0	14.8	15.3	15.3	19.7		
TES			Kindergarten & 1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd & 4th Grade	4th Grade	4th Grade	47	3
	# of Students	1	9 + 12 = 21	11	6 + 9 = 15	1	1		
	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher	Teacher		
	Para	Para	Para	1	1	1	1		
	Ratio	21.0	21.0	11.0	15.0	15.0	15.0		
	(*) = actually registered								
	* Teaching Principal para								
	Enrollment numbers may include tuitioned-in students								
	9								
	Total Students Pre-K-4							793	
	Total Elem. Students K-4							720	

