

# OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road  
Peterborough, New Hampshire

## CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

### Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 24, 2019

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

### Minutes

**Present:** John Jordan (Hancock), John Robertson (Antrim), Dale Gabel (Dublin), Gail Cromwell (Temple), Henry Kunhardt (Francestown), Karen Hatcher (Peterborough) (7:34), Kimberly Saunders, Jerry Wilson, Myron Steere, Janine Lesser, Pierce Rigrod

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

#### 1. Accept Minutes of November 29, 2018

John Robertson moved to accept the minutes of November 29, 2019. Dale Gabel second. The minutes were amended to change the word "advisories" to "adversaries" on page 2 of the minutes. Second. Unanimous as amended.

#### 2. 2019-20 Budget

John Jordan reported that the basic school district operating is up \$840,000.

Gail Cromwell cautioned not to compare gross budget, but to compare operating and district assessment.

Henry Kunhardt noted big bumps in the operating budget. In particular, line 323, pupil services is up 217%. Kimberly Saunders said that this year, we have used monies from trusts. This is related to direct student costs. It could be student outplacement. The 300 lines would reflect services that we purchased and did not provide ourselves.

Gail Cromwell asked why this did not show up in the default. Kimberly said that it would be a one-time expenditure in some cases; kids move in and kids move out. Because students are not in the present budget, she could not put them in the default. It is not based on this year's budget, it is based on last year's budget. It is based on the 17/18 expenditures and not budget.

In 18/19 \$223,400 was appropriated to this line.

If we go to default, we will cut \$1.249M. The board will make decisions on where those cuts will come from. The default was defined and how it is arrived at.

Gail Cromwell suggested that there is \$1.2M in new spending proposed. Kimberly confirmed that there is not \$1.2M in new spending.

Henry Kunhardt asked for an expenditure report.

Henry cited line 433 – Mechanical Repairs and Maintenance which is up 318%. Kimberly reported that \$120K is a boiler at DCS. Gail asked about using the trust fund money for the boiler rather than add it to the budget. Kimberly said that the board considered using trust money, but other items that are needed might access trust funds.

Gail Cromwell noted Line 738 – Replacement Equipment. Kimberly reported that a new P.A. system is needed in one of the schools and is feeding static back.

Henry Kunhardt asked about separate warrant articles for large expenditures. Myron Steere said that the only problem with that is that should the voters vote it down, we can't purchase the boiler at all. We need the boiler to run DCS.

John Jordan asked about Line 656 – Gasoline and diesel. Kimberly said that this represents a transfer of money as a result of under budgeting in years past. We have expended more than we budgeted. The default budget is based on the current budget passed; 18/19.

### **3. Warrant for Teacher's Contract**

The next contract is for two years for approximately a cost of \$1.5M. It is about a 3% raise across the board. Lower end salaries are now more consistent. Increased contribution to health insurance is part of the deal. Pierce Rigrod said that the Factfinder's Report was flawed. It was inequitable. There was a significant impact on the taxpayer with a ripple effect.

Pierce noted that building aid, once over \$600K, is now zero in the budget.

John Jordan noted that on the teacher's contract, the top raise was 39.5% last year.

In addition:

44 teachers received 20% or more as a result of the Factfinder's Report.

35 received 15% or more

63 received 10% or more

140 received 10% or more

The lowest was 3.5% for 3 teachers.

Top salary is \$74,800 with 6 people at that level.

Myron Steere noted that the School Board did not support the Fact Finder's Report. The voters voted it in.

Kimberly Saunders noted that Hillsboro teachers will receive in the mid \$40K for beginning teachers in the next few years. Ours is less than that. In addition, we lose teachers every year to Milford.

John Jordan said that looking at another million dollars after \$1.6 million last year does not sit well in his town.

### **4. Warrant for Single Tier Bussing**

John noted the cost of near \$1M for single tier bussing. John said that it appears that single tier bussing would be required for consolidation; it seems this is a first step toward consolidation.

Kimberly said that it was her suggestion that it go on as a separate warrant article. It is a result of parent input requesting a later start in the day. Flipping the day and having elementary students start earlier was a non-starter.

Dale Gabel asked what time middle and high school starts – approximately 7:20 p.m.

### **5. Warrant Article for Funding Formula Change**

John Jordan shared comparison data of ConVal Assessments per town.

John Robertson said that he is of the opinion that you take district assessment and come up with the same tax rate for everyone.

Pierce Rigrod said that it is based on a service fee type system based on the number of students in a town attending. If we switch to 100%EV; taxes for some will double.

Karen Hatcher said that the real problem is that our tax bill is 70% education, largely due to cuts in the State. It is possible to have legislation that will stop the bleeding. She suggested pulling together and making something work while we fight with the state to get this money back. There are possibilities. She suggested not dividing, but rather coming together to sort this out.

**6. Petition Warrant Articles**

Two petition warrant articles are coming up. One asks that a comprehensive analysis and implementation plan be conducted prior to proposing to the voters any plan for school closure. The second instructs preparation of a detailed proposal to restructure by December 1, 2019.

Gail said that there was an in house study that was ignored. Pierce Rigrod said that we need more time.

**7. 2019-20 Default Budget**

Covered in previous discussion.

**8. Other**

Gail asked about coordinated efforts of the Select board in terms of a recommendation on the school budget. John Jordan said that he was not prepared for that tonight.

**Karen Hatcher motioned to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. John Robertson second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok