

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, January 3, 2019

School Board Meeting

SAU Office

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

BOARD

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

ADMINISTRATION

Kimberly Saunders, Supt.	Amy Janoch, HES
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.	Colleen Roy, GES
Tim Markley, H.R.	Fabi Woods, TES
Mindy Ryan, B.A.	Nicole Pease, DCS
Ben Moenter, Special Ed.	Kat Foecking, FES
Tim Grossi, Facilities	Jim Elder, GBS
Cari Coates, Student Serv.	Tim Conway, SMS
Gib West, CVHS	Ann O'Bryant, SMS
Kathie Morrocco, Pierce	
Larry Pimental, PES	
Stephanie Syre-Hager, AES	

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. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II

- a. Negotiations**
- b. Legal**

Stephan Morrissey moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II for matters of negotiations, legal, and personnel at 7:01 p.m. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Stephan Morrissey moved to exit non-public session at 7:38 p.m. Dick Dunning Second. Unanimous.

3. Public Comment

Gail Cromwell, Temple, distributed tax rate information for 2018 for the nine towns. She spoke about proposals to close TES. Two years ago, Temple defeated the pipeline proposal. Now the town is having people come back into the town. Ms. Cromwell spoke about the affect closing an elementary school would have on the town. Schools bring in young families. She said that the case has not yet been made for closing a school(s).

Dani, Temple, spoke about school consolidation ideas; in particular TES. She shared some research on the topic of consolidation in terms of savings and the impact on education.

Elizabeth Swan, Temple, said that she is interested in maintaining a school in her town. She has heard cost and budgetary concerns from the board. She has not heard how children would benefit from consolidation. She asked the board to seek out better alternatives.

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.

4. New Business

a. Collective Bargaining Unit Negotiated Agreement (School Board Vote Required)

Rich Cahoon moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiated. Stephan Morrissey second.

Dick Dunning abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Lori Groleau thanked the board and negotiating members for the time spent to negotiate this contract.

5. Old Business

a. Updated Operating Budget Version– Mindy Ryan

Mindy Ryan reported that Version 4 is the current version. Nothing has changed. The only thing that will change is that once the warrant articles are set it, will change appropriations.

Myron Steere read a memorandum of agreement to reflect the shorter time frame to collect union dues.

Stephan Morrissey moved to make the changes as requested. Jerome Wilson second.

Dick Dunning abstained. Motion carried.

b. Draft Warrant

Article 02 – The figures of \$909,187 for the increase in year 2019-2020 and \$619,950 for 2020-2021 were shared for the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Article 03 – Special Meeting should the CBA be defeated.

Rich Cahoon moved to include Article 3 on the warrant. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous.

Article 04 - **Stephan Morrissey moved to delete Article 4 on the warrant as currently presented. Jerome Wilson second. Unanimous.**

Rich Cahoon asked for discussion for a potential replacement for Article 4. If we elected not to go with this approach, another was discussed.

Rich said that the proposed funding changes are separate and distinct from consolidation proposals and entirely separate.

Misconceptions include; tax rates paid in various towns are currently the same and what is being asked is for smaller towns to pay more. This is not true. Tax rates vary for the local education property tax from one town to another. There have been no proposals to reverse this and cause smaller towns to pay more. There has been a proposal to narrow the gap in terms of the difference.

He has heard that students in small schools do not receive the same education as larger schools; untrue, they receive the same experiences. Rich said that our current budget is very heavily weighted toward the elementary schools; for the first time the cost per elementary school student has exceeded \$20,000.

When ConVal was formed we operated our schools in terms of special education very differently than we do today.

What is this about? It is about fairness. Some of the towns with the smallest of schools pay the least amount in terms of educational tax. We have heard that people value their small schools. If you want to take some of the pressure off of the small schools, we need help from community members to take that pressure off.

Rich Cahoon proposed replacing the current 50/50 with 40% ADM/60% EV in Article 8 of the Articles of Agreement. Linda Quintanilha second.

Right now, with 50/50, each year that we pass a budget, the towns are responsible to raise funds based on census and equalized value. We take half of the cost based on ADM. We look at what percentage resides in a town. The other 50% is related to the value of property. The combination of these two factors result in district assessment.

By moving toward EV, we recognize the cost of very small ADM schools and weight it toward the real value of properties in a town and narrow the tax rates in some towns.

Information on the impact by town was asked.

Bernd Foecking said that he understands the philosophy. The problem he sees with Article 4 as proposed is that should Article 5 pass, would the funding formula change back to 50/50 or a different funding formula to achieve fairness?

Rich said that he does not expect Article 5 to pass so does not believe there will be an issue.

Call for a vote to include Rich's proposal to replace the current 50/50 with 40% ADM/60% EV in Article 8 of the Articles of Agreement.

In favor: Rich Cahoon, Dick Dunning, Jerry Wilson, Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly

Opposed: Pierce Rigrod, Crista Salmay, Jim Fredrickson, Niki McGettigan

Abstained: Bernd Foecking, Janine Lesser, Stephan Morrissey

Motion passes.

Article 05 – the year should read 2025 and not 2021.

Linda Quintanilha moved to remove Article 5. Jim Fredrickson second.

Jim said that the board has not done their homework. We don't have the numbers.

Janine said that we have preliminary work in front of us. We have done the work in the past. If we don't get the funding to review it further, we will not get the answers. \$75K for a consultant was suggested to determine the impact of this proposal.

Rich said that we are selling ourselves short here. We have a lot of answers, we just need to compile it. This has been investigated for a decade and we have a tremendous amount of information. He opposes it, but not for the reason that we don't have information.

Bernd Foecking said that we gave ourselves until 2025 and we have done tremendous work toward it.

Janine Lesser said that we could put the information that we have in usable form for the public.

Niki McGettigan said that we don't have the information yet.

The money to conduct the research is needed first.

In favor of removing Article 05 as presented from the warrant: 11

Not removing from the warrant: 1- Bernd Foecking

Motion carried to remove from the warrant.

Dick Dunning said that what Rich proposed was a major step to reach a fair and equitable response for tax payers. It would be great if the house of same value was taxed the same for education purposes. We need to look at this. The larger towns feel the burden; they feel more in property taxes. We want fair and equitable.

Jerome Wilson asked if we should consider a warrant to allocate funds to research a reconfiguration approach.

Rich asked if the point of it is to get the money to do that or get a straw poll. We can add money and allocate it for this purpose in the budget.

Jerome withdrew his request.

Article 06 & 07 - are for potential one-time expenses.

These will be stricken.

Article 08 - involved single tier bussing.

Stephan Morrissey moved that Article 08 to add \$808,000 to add the necessary busses to allow one start time for all schools. It would allow all schools to begin at the same start time.

Linda Quintanilha second.

Bernd Foecking said that he would like more time. This is a lot of money and asked if it is worth it. Would money be better spent on universal preschool?

Kimberly said that one goal is to investigate what offering preschool would look like. We are looking at universal preschool for the first time. There is no new news about research on start times.

In favor of single tier bussing warrant: Crista Salmay, Jim Fredrickson, Bernd Foecking, Stephan Morrissey, Dick Dunning, Jerry Wilson, Linda Quintanilha, Janine Lesser, Kristen Reilly

Opposed: Niki McGettigan, Pierce Rigrod, Rich Cahoon

Motion carried.

Articles 09-12 have been previously voted.

Rich Cahoon said that having removed consolidation we can now firm up our capital improvement for the next several years. \$1.8M for next year in capital expenditures is a real number.

Rich Cahoon moved to allocate \$350K in building reserves.

Stephan Morrissey second.

Discussion took place about security plans.

Jim Fredrickson said that the plan for 2021 is \$1.3M; parking lots, mechanical, roofing, fields.

Rich Cahoon withdrew his motion. Stephan Morrissey withdrew his second.

Article 09 would be unchanged.

c. Other Warrant Articles

Rich Cahoon said that he does not want to put another warrant article on. Now we have the potential funding change on the ballot. He would like to look at a reasonable expenditure per student. We have been shorting our high school and middle schools. At some point we need to put more into the larger elementary schools.

6. Public Comment

Gail Cromwell said that on the trust fund articles, it states that no amount will be raised from taxation. To be accurate, a statement that says that it will be raised in the next year should be added.

She spoke about the problem of distribution of adequacy aid. Roughly 55% of adequacy is distributed to Antrim and to Peterborough.

Kimberly Saunders said that there is a problem with adequacy, SWEPT does not come from Concord. She said that Gail is talking about stabilization and not adequacy. It is raised locally and is just over \$3K per student for an adequate education. The state is not meeting its constitutional obligation to provide an adequate education.

Gail said that stabilization should be distributed fairly.

The board took a five minute break before entering into nonpublic session at 8:38 p.m.

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

a. Personnel

b. Legal

Stephan Morrissey moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II at 8:38 p.m. for matters of personnel and legal. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Stephan Morrissey moved to exit non-public session at 9:06 p.m. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey moved to seal the discussion on legal for a period of five years and to seal the minutes of both personnel discussions for a period of twenty years each.

Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept the request for personal leave. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous.

Linda Quintanilha motioned to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok