

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Notice of Public Hearing

On

Warrant Article to Amend the Articles of Agreement

On

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

7:00 P.M.

At

SAU Board Room

106 Hancock Road, Peterborough, NH

MINUTES

Myron Steere called the Public Hearing on the warrant article that proposes to amend Article 8 of the ConVal Articles of Agreement to order at 7:09 p.m.

Mr. Steere read the following:

To amend Article 8 of the Articles of Agreement:

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to amend Article 8 of the Articles of Agreement among the School District towns of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple as follows: (2/3 Vote Required)

From the present language of:

The expenses of the Contoocook Valley School District payable in each fiscal year shall be apportioned as follows:

- a) Fifty percent (50%) on the average daily membership (ADM) of the pupils in public schools residing in each pre-existing district of the Cooperative School District as determined by the most recent school fiscal year figures available from the State Department of Education.*
- b) Fifty percent (50%) on the Total Equalized Valuation (TEV) of each pre-existing district of the Cooperative School District as determined by the most recent figures available from the State Department of Revenue Administration."*

To the language as follows:

The expenses of the Contoocook Valley School District payable in each fiscal year shall be apportioned as follows:

- a) Forty percent (40%) on the average daily membership (ADM) of the pupils in public schools residing in each pre-existing district of the Cooperative School District as determined by the most recent school fiscal year figures available from the State Department of Education.*

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.

b) Sixty percent (60%) on the Total Equalized Valuation (TEV) of each pre-existing district of the Cooperative School District as determined by the most recent figures available from the State Department of Revenue Administration.

John Jordan, Hancock, shared information about the different education tax assessments previously discussed and the differing tax impact. He was referring to conversation that had taken place reporting that two homes near one another, but located in two different towns, of near same value, had widely varied tax assessments on them. He noted a \$400 difference in his comparison and not the \$1,100 as previously discussed.

Mr. Jordan further said that when looking at 40/60, the lowest town and the highest would result is very little change. If we are talking equity, we are not changing much.

Looking at the funding formula over the years, he cited historical changes in the funding formula and the result.

If Article 4 were to pass, it would provide an additional decrease to Antrim, Bennington, and Peterborough. Hancock would go up and Dublin as well. No significant change in the amount of equity.

He said that the former Business Administrator created a report on this topic and it reported that 50/50 was deemed to be about as equitable as we could get.

Unbundling impact was shared.

John Jordan did not propose doing what the article requests. He said that this is a lot to put people through for no purpose.

Dan Harper, Hancock, asked why the change. He said it seems a bit of a shell game.

Rich Cahoon said that one matrix that the State uses is equalized valuation per student. Given the way our schools are funded; it is the funding capacity of a community. In this district, the town of Bennington has \$600K equalized valuation per pupil. Hancock has \$1,600,000 to fund its students. If we are one ConVal, there is a disparity that individual taxpayers pay in the various locations. This is what causes a bit of the ill feelings toward the small schools. They are expensive and have the lowest associated tax rates along with them. He is trying to take some of the pressure off of the small school discussion. There is a perceived inequity.

Pierce Rigrod said that we started this discussion way late in the process. We should have had more time to make a case to ourselves. As a procedure, the process did not meet the obligation to put something before the voters. The funding formula has a user fee. The more students in a community, the town has more of an obligation to pay into the district. If a case is to be made, we should have seen an accounting of the costs of an elementary school. We have budget information that doesn't display out the shared services. At this stage, he has not seen how they are pushed out by town.

Dan Harper said that there will still be winners and losers. There is animosity toward the small towns because they want to keep their schools.

Rich Cahoon said that he has no animosity toward the small schools. People have said that they value their small schools, they need to be paid for them.

John Jordan said that narrowing the difference does so with this proposal by \$79.00. We should respond to Concord in an effort to make adequacy adequate.

Kimberly Saunders, Superintendent, reported that board members did testify in Concord on HB678. ConVal numbers were used to look at adequacy. We provided the numbers for ConVal. In doing so, we provided five changes to the study commissions report. It resulted in a base adequacy. Concord chose to keep the bill in committee and move another forward. Legislature is offering another study commission. There is not any short term relief to the antiquated system that is funding education in New Hampshire.

Pierce Rigrod said that two meetings on this topic does not seem sufficient to move forward with this proposal.

Hearing no further discussion, Myron Steere called the Public Hearing to a close at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok