

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 21, 2019

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

MINUTES

Present: John Jordan (Hancock), Dale Gabel (Dublin), Gail Cromwell (Temple), Henry Kunhardt (Francestown), Karen Hatcher (Peterborough), Carl Newton (Sharon), Kimberly Saunders, Jerry Wilson, Myron Steere, Pierce Rigrod, Rich Cahoon, Dr. Ann Forrest, Gib West, Amy Janoch

John Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Accept Minutes of January 24, 2019

Gail Cromwell moved to accept the minutes of January 24, 2019. Karen Hatcher second. Unanimous.

2. Review and Recommendations of Warrant

John Jordan reported that financial planning is a responsibility of this committee.

A copy of the ballot was distributed.

Karen Hatcher asked if SAC is looking to recommend or not recommend articles. John Jordan confirmed that this committee has done that in the past.

Article 1 – Proposed Budget – John Jordan said that if the proposed budget does not pass, the default is over \$1M less. Mr. Jordan said that a comprehensive review is needed.

Kimberly Saunders said that every single year, the school district does a comprehensive review of the proposed budget. The Budget & Property Committee reviews it as well. She asked what else SAC would like her to do.

Karen Hatcher said that this budget reflects the adoption of the Factfinders Report that was voted in last year by voters. If voters said that the contract was favorable, we have to pay for that. It is not realistic to say that we want this but we don't want to pay for it. The board did not recommend the factfinders report but it got voted in anyway.

Carl Newton said that people were confused by the vote on the Factfinder's Report.

In favor of the proposed budget: Peterborough

Opposed to the proposed budget: Hancock, Temple, Sharon, Dublin

Abstained: Francestown

Three towns absent: Antrim, Bennington, and Greenfield

Article 2 – CVEA Agreement

Carl Newton asked if this is still reflective of the same scale as last year. This is a two- year contract; the first year is \$909,187 and the second is \$619,950.

Henry Kunhardt asked why they are estimated increases. The response was that staff come and go, it is estimated on salary and benefits.

In favor of the Collective Bargaining Agreement: Sharon, Peterborough

Opposed to the Collective Bargaining Agreement: Hancock, Temple

Abstained Dublin, Frankestown

Three towns absent: Antrim, Bennington, and Greenfield

What is the impact if it the budget passes but the contract fails? Teachers may work to contract.

Why is the bargaining agreement separate from the budget? It is separate because you cannot put a collective bargaining agreement into the proposed budget until after it passes.

In the event of a default, staff would be cut. Increases include NH Retirement, Health Insurance, and transportation.

Article 4 – Change to the Articles of Agreement- Article 8 – Funding Formula

In favor of the article to change the funding formula: Peterborough

Opposed to the article to change the funding formula: Sharon, Dublin, Hancock, and Temple

It was mentioned that should this pass, a law suit may come forward on the basis of discrimination of small towns.

Jerry Wilson said that in the report referenced (from the former Business Administrator), the 60/40 or 40/60 splits were not investigated. The report was based on certain ratios.

Carl Newton said that this has been a discussion for years. Because of the inequality; Antrim and Bennington were high, the articles were changed to 50/50 because it was unfair. He said that this does not benefit everyone. It is like blackmail and discrimination to small towns.

Rich Cahoon said that we have had multiple attempts to move toward 100% and several attempts toward 75%.

Pierce Rigrod said that we are about to have a conversation about consolidation. If we close schools, we are back to why are we at 60/40 for a town that had their school closed.

Karen Hatcher said that the reason she recommends not supporting this is because it is divisive.

Article 5 – Bussing

In favor: None

Opposed: Sharon, Peterborough, Temple, Hancock

Abstained – Frankestown, Dublin

Three towns absent: Antrim, Bennington, and Greenfield

Karen Hatcher reported out on legislature – she said that the role that this district played in moving the discussion on education funding forward had an impact. Six school board members, Kimberly, and Karen Hatcher went to Concord to speak about Bill HB 678. It got retained. There was a huge shout out to the

work that was done from this district. They heard it. The effort and the appearance from this district mattered. Karen Hatcher thanked the board for their work.

Four funding bills are in Executive Session this week – one retained, two tossed, HB709 moved out of committee. It attempts to provide immediate relief to those districts in a tough spot. Three goals are being worked on; immediate short term relief, longer term relief, and a commission. HB709 is a combination of things that are trying to answer an immediate need. Stopping the stabilization cuts was a goal.

Gail Cromwell said that a bill to restore 15% of the retirement costs is in play. Kimberly Saunders said that it is not doing well.

3. Other

Gail Cromwell motioned to adjourn at 7:45. Carl Newton second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok