

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Annual Meeting

ConVal High School

School District Meeting Part I

Tuesday, February 6, 2019

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Call to Order:

Moderator Bob Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Edwards thanked everyone for coming tonight. He introduced Attorney's John Cronin and Dean Eggert. Fire exits were identified in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Edwards said that this Deliberative Session of the School District Meeting serves as a legislative body for determining the final form of the warrant articles to be voted upon at the March ballot in respective communities.

His said that his purpose as your moderator is to preside over this meeting and to assist those present with conducting the business of the District.

To assure an orderly process during the meeting, the moderator has established the following Rules and Procedures that we all will follow.

Rulings by the moderator may be overruled by a simple majority vote of the Legislative Body.

Also, the members of this meeting may vote to set aside any rule they wish and modify that rule by a simple majority vote.

PROCEDURES:

Each warrant article will be read by the moderator and he will then recognize a school board member or as is the case this evening, the Petitioner to present their Partitioned Warrant Article.

The moderator will then open the article to the floor for position comments, question or amendments.

The articles on this warrant by law must appear on the ballot for voting in March. This meeting may result in amending the wording, changing the intent or dollar amounts of the articles, however, the subject matter may not be changed significantly from what was warned to the public.

NOTE: Some warrant article wording is prescribed by law and may not be amended.

Motions to amend articles will require that a motion be seconded. The moderator will deal with only one amendment at a time. All motions to amend articles shall be submitted to the moderator in writing.

When there are no more amendments, questions, or discussion on a particular article, the moderator will declare the article closed to further debate and move to the next article.

Once an article has been closed to further debate, it will require a motion, a second, and a majority vote to bring the articles up for further discussion.

Under RSA 40:10, the meeting may vote to "Restrict Reconsideration" of an article previously discussed after debate has been closed. If voted in the affirmative, the article may not be brought up again in this deliberative session.

A motion to "restrict reconsideration" may only be made after discussion on an article has been closed.

DEBATE

Only registered voters from the nine town district may speak at this deliberative session. Registered voters must have a district voter card which is given out by the Supervisors of the check list at the voter's respective voter tables.

An exception will be made for staff and administrative personnel who may be called upon during the meeting to answer questions or provide information on matters that come before this meeting.

A registered voter may request that a non-voter be allowed to address the meeting. If there is no objection, the moderator will allow a non-voter to speak. If there is an objection, the decision will be put to a vote of the legislative body.

The moderator must first recognize anyone who wishes to address the meeting for any purpose.

The speaker must first state his or her name and town for the record and announce the purpose which they wish to address the meeting. Example: To speak to the article; ask a question; introduce an amendment or motion.

The same speaker may not speak to an article and make a motion or amendment in the same trip to the microphone.

The moderator will recognize speakers in their order at the microphone.

EXCEPTION: Anyone raising a "point of order" may interrupt the speaker and be recognized for the "point of order." A "point of order" may only be made to call to the moderator's attention that some matter is interfering with the conduct of the meeting.

MEETING DECORUM

Speakers should not refer to individuals by name but rather use "the previous speaker" or the "school board member." The intent is to keep personalities out of the discussion.

Please no cheers, calls or applause. Every issue is important and each speaker's opinion deserves respect and consideration.

A motion to "move the question", if passed, will end debate on a warrant article or amendment. "Moving the question" is not debatable and will require a two-thirds vote to pass.

The moderator will not accept a motion to "move the question" if there hasn't been discussion or if only one side of a discussion has been presented. The moderator will require a voter to get in line and make the motion from the microphone as there may be speakers in line who have waited to present their opinion. No shouting of a motion to move the questions from a voter's seat will be recognized.

VOTING:

Votes will be taken using voter cards that are issued to each registered voter who checks in through the voter checklist. Please do not lose your voter card. You will not be issued another card.

Every registered voter should have one (1) voter card. If you have to leave the meeting, please take your card with you and bring it back with you when you return.

When debate on a motion is finished, the moderator will ask those in favor of the motion to raise their voter cards and then he will ask those opposed to raise theirs. The outcome of the vote will be declared based on the moderator's visual assessment of the count.

If there is a question as to the majority, the moderator will then ask for an actual count of the voter cards in favor and opposed.

The only voice vote taken exclusively will be for a motion to adjourn.

SECRET BALLOT VOTING: RSA 40-a,b)

A SECRET BALLOT vote may be requested in writing by five (5) voters before a vote is taken on any question or motion. The moderator will provide signature forms for requesting a secret ballot.

Numbered or colored YES/NO ballots have been issued to each registered voter if a secret ballot is requested. The moderator will designate which number or colored ballot will be used for a vote.

A SECRET BALLOT vote may also be requested after the moderator has declared the result of a vote taken by voter cards. The request must be made in writing by seven (7) voters and must be called for immediately after the moderator has declared a vote and BEFORE any other business has begun.

WARRANT

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the Inhabitants of the Contoocook Valley School District consisting of the Towns of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at **ConVal High School** at 184 Hancock Rd., (Route 202 North) in Peterborough on the **sixth day of February** next at **6 o'clock in the evening** for the first session of the Annual School District Meeting (snow date: seventh day of February next at 6 o'clock in the evening), to deliberate upon the warrant articles listed below. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended; (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended; and, (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this provision.

You are further notified to meet at the following places in the Town of your residence:

Antrim	Antrim Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Bennington	Pierce Elementary School	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Dublin	Dublin Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Frankestown	Frankestown Town Hall	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Greenfield	Greenfield Town Hall	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Hancock	Hancock Town Office	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Peterborough	Peterborough Community Center	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sharon	Sharon Meeting House	11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Temple	Temple Town Hall	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

on the **twelfth day of March** next for the second session of the Meeting (polls will be open for voting by official ballot at the second session)

Chairman Myron Steere, shared his appreciation to those in attendance tonight. He thanked Bob Edwards and the maintenance crew for their work on the science lab renovation at the high school. Mr. Steere reported that \$600,000 was saved as a result of the work from what was originally budgeted. He noted health insurance, retirement, pupil services, and transportation that amount to over \$800K. Chairman Steere, said that we have 11 buildings with a cost of \$2M per year to maintain. It is important to provide an excellent and adequate education for students. All of this needs consideration when discussing the budget.

Those present introduced themselves, which included School Board members, Administration, and student representatives.

Moderator Edwards asked if anyone had questions. None were asked.

Article 01: Operating Budget-School District-SB2

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$48,128,007? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$46,878,781, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Contoocook Valley School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Jim Fredrickson addressed the article. Mr. Fredrickson referenced the annual report, page 24. In addition, he referenced a report on the school budget primer which explains the school district budget.

Total operational budget is \$45,906,471.67 compared to \$45,065,862.73. Total operational budget is up 1.87% over last year. Should the budget not pass, a default budget will result. The default budget is \$1.25M less than the proposed budget. This means that cuts in staff, program, and facilities would be necessary to meet the default. Mr. Fredrickson encouraged the passing of the proposed budget in order not to have a default budget.

Tom Welden, Hancock, asked about student information by schools in terms of enrollment absent from the annual report. This information is important to making decisions.

Kimberly Saunders referenced "We Are ConVal" as a companion document to the annual report that includes this information.

Mr. Welden further asked about an administrative position, and life insurance increases of 22% and should be bid out if it has not. FICA dropping while salaries are changing and going down; it doesn't add up. Pupil services has a large increase; he asked why.

Kimberly Saunders said that we have a support position proposed for an accountant as advised by our auditing firm for a near \$50M business. In terms of life insurance, we do bid out our insurance regularly.

FICA and Pupil Services – salaries are actually down, but because we have certain positions that we are unable to fill, we have to contract out for those services that we are legally obligated to have.

Laurie Turner, Peterborough, reported that she is the mother of strong academic hockey players. She said that hockey has been their choice and passion. She spoke about what is required to be a hockey player in terms of preparation. She added the value that corresponds to being a hockey player in the way of dedication. She said that colleges do take notice.

Kin Schilling, Hancock, founder of Cornucopia Project, spoke about the importance of a school garden and the physical and well-being that it connects students with. School gardens enrich school grounds and curriculum. It provides a gathering spot for students. She said that Cornucopia is dedicated to their work with students.

Jeff King, Peterborough, reported that both female and male hockey players are present tonight because hockey is slated for a cut should the default budget result. Mr. King asked the board should the budget not pass, how the decision was made to make cuts should the default result.

Kimberly Saunders said that administrators reviewed the budget and determine no or low impact to students. They start with staff raises for administrators, staff recognition and other items that will not impact students. The mission and vision of the school district next. Mission critical moving outward to items that are enrichment to present curriculum and outside activities. Work on buildings that might be deferred and summer programs were looked at. Extra-curricular and co-curricular were looked at as well. There isn't anything on the list that administrators want to see go. There will always be a group of students that will be impacted as the lower part of the list is looked at.

Mr. King said that this came to his attention through reading the newspaper. Neither coach was given advance notice. Mr. King said that busing costs are not needed; they've been carpooling for years. They could continue to do so. He said that busing could be reduced. Game administration could be reduced; parents can take on these tasks. The biggest expense is ice time. It is actually a facility cost. We don't have our own arena. When looking at other sports budgets, a facility cost is not associated or accounted for.

Moderator encouraged Mr. King to attend board meetings to voice his input.

Jim Fredrickson invited Mr. King to the next Budget & Property Committee meeting.

Varsity Boys Coach, reiterated the importance of the hockey program. They are learning play of life lessons and are committed to excellence. He confirmed that he was never notified that the program would be cut in the event of a default budget. It is about the players.

Antrim parent asked about how the proposed budget would be cut. She noted the cost of line 531; cellular phones. How was that arrived at? Kimberly Saunders reported that they are second on the list to cut should the budget not pass. As a hockey mom, with a 12-year-old child, she said that she understands and she encouraged those to support the passing of the budget. There is no way that we can cut \$1.2M without cutting programs and without cutting staff.

Moderator Edwards asked that she attend the Budget & Property Committee meeting.

The parent said that there is a miscommunication between what will actually be cut in the event of a default.

Stephan Morrissey said that he supported the hockey program when it came to ConVal. His first year was a default budget. This board values all of the programs and they want them to be funded. The board does not want to lose staff. He encouraged those present to go out into the community and encourage the passing of the proposed budget. Hard choices will be made in the event of a default.

Karen Hatcher, Peterborough, expressed her gratitude to the board for their work producing the budget. She reminded those present that they voted in the budget and the teacher's contract, benefit package, factfinders report; all contractual. We voted for that so now we need to fund it. So now we need to say "yes" to the number. We don't want to lose good teachers when we aren't competitive.

Tom Welden, Hancock, asked about sports programs. He said that ConVal has added a huge number of programs over the years. The population is dropping and he does not see the correlation of those two things. Costs are going up disproportionately for retirement to the numbers of staff.

Kimberly Saunders reported that athletic opportunities have increased but participation percentages have increased as well. We are giving our students a well thought out program. The second piece about retirement is about the downshift of the cost to the communities. Retirement costs have doubled because the State no longer funds their portion.

Jeff Garfinkle, Peterborough, said that athletics have been an important part of his children's lives. The sports slated for a cut are important to students. He said that the elephant in the room is consolidation. This is an option that would not cut program but is an option. Why has that not been brought up as part of the default.

Kimberly Saunders said that consolidation would not be brought up as part of a default. Any consolidation would have to be voted as part of our Articles of Agreement with a 2/3's vote. The board did put forward several options for consolidation and got "beat up". So, as a result, they put a funding formula change on the ballot.

Jim Bosman, Frankestown, and State Representative said that he appreciates the discussion here tonight. What we have is a revenue problem in the State of NH. The State has reneged on their promises to the local communities. He hoped that in addition to supporting this budget that they will also support issues in Concord and contact their Senators and Representatives. He hopes to reverse the downshift to communities.

Jim Fredrickson appreciated Mr. Bosman's comments. One of the biggest issues is the lack of state funding.

Mr. Morrissey spoke about the efforts of the board in Concord recently testifying on the issue of the State funding an adequate education. The State determines that \$3,636.00 is the cost of an adequate education. We are seeking proper funding. Kimberly Saunders reported that HB678 was addressed; it would change adequacy to \$9,929.00 exclusive of transportation and would take effect July 1, 2019. Call your representatives and legislators.

Steve Uhlman, Antrim, said that when the American Disabilities Act was passed, 40% of the cost of children with special needs would be taken care of by the Federal Government. They have not done so.

Chris Turner, Peterborough, said that the funding for Advanced Placement classes would impact his students. He encouraged the continuation of advanced placement work. He asked everyone to pass the proposed budget to continue to attract families to the district.

Ed Walker, Peterborough, moved the question. Stephan Morrissey second. Majority in favor.

Article 02: Accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the Contoocook Valley Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the ConVal School Board and the ConVal Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2019-2020	\$909,187
2020-2021	\$619,950

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$909,187 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

(The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Rich Cahoon addressed this article. He reported that negotiations occurred over six months with give and take on both side, both sides achieved some of their objects and also gave way to some of their objectives. Mr. Cahoon said that this is a reasonable. The district received additional professional development days, increased contribution by employees for the cost of health insurance; 2% each year for 2 years.

After hearing no further discussion, the Moderator closed debate on Article 2 after no further comments were offered.

Article 03: Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended Collective Bargaining Unit

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District, if Article 2 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 2 cost items only?

(The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Niki McGettigan addressed this article. She said that it gives the governing body the right to call one special meeting if Article 2 does not pass.

After hearing no further discussion, the Moderator closed Article 3 for further debate.

Article 04: 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:

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.
- 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.

(2/3 Vote Required) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a vote (tally 6-5-0).)

Rich Cahoon addressed this article. He said that there is division in our school district. There is a perceived financial inequity in the towns. Taxpayers in two different towns pay dramatically different taxes. Two tax cards of virtually same assessment in two towns a hundred feet apart were reviewed. The taxes paid for the education portion were very different. It is important to begin to address some of the division in the district and pressure on the school district and individual towns. This is an opportunity to take a step in that direction.

Jim Fredrickson said that if you are interested in the impact of this articles, he referenced information in a report titled the School Budget Primer. It reflects, in part, what the shift in the formula would mean for each town. The taxes for several towns would go down, while the taxes in others would go up. This information should help make an informed decision.

Tom Welden, Hancock, said that this is kicking the can down the road. Instead of addressing the cost for all of the schools this is proposed. Enrollments have gone down. Dropping costs should be the focus, it is the boards responsibility. This is a difficult issue. We need to do something about the schools and the number is driving the budget up. Maintenance and upkeep of the buildings is up. After hearing no further discussion, further debate was closed on this Article by the Moderator.

Article 05: Single Tier Bussing to allow one start time for all schools

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$808,000 for the purpose of adding additional bus routes for the formation of a single tier bussing system that will allow the middle school and high school to begin school one hour later.

(The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.)

(The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a vote (tally 6-5-0).)

Stephan Morrissey addressed this article. He said that this was put before the board and there was a split vote of 6-5-0. He said that this is an expensive proposal. A later start is better conducive to learning. The board wanted to put this before the voters to decide. Our current configuration requires a number of additional busses. It would allow the high school to start school one hour later.

Mark Fernald, Sharon, provided an amendment which read “

Anyone present to speak to or against the article.

Diane Mitchell, Sharon, shared her concern about single tier bussing. She said that she drives a school bus. 14-20 additional buses will be needed to be purchased. She said that she was unsure where the \$808,000 would be needed. Student Transportation of America (STA) is contracted by ConVal School District. She asked where the money would come from. She cited the shortage of bus drivers. The State says that students can be on buses for one hour, ConVal says that it is 40 minutes. She asked where the drivers would come from. She noted that the cost of cell phones for the school district covers one person's salary.

Rich Cahoon asked if Diane Mitchell was speaking for herself or STA. She confirmed for herself.

Carrie Bouliet, Peterborough, said that the sleep factor with education is important. The cost is a consideration. Is this a one-time cost or a long term cost? We have a transportation contract.

Stephan Morrissey said that it is a long-term cost. This would be for one year only and continue yearly.

Tom Welden, Hancock, asked what this does to the sports programs.

Kimberly Saunders said that based on start time and end time, sports would have to be scheduled differently.

Michelle Hautanen, Peterborough, noted that K-4 students would not ride with high school students. She wondered if it was costed out should they ride together. She hears that there are parent concerns but added that high school students are excellent with K-4 students.

Mr. Morrissey reported that with the current configuration of the schools, it becomes necessary for them to ride separately.

Joe MacGregor, Bennington, said that the conversation, up until now, has dealt with money. Does it extend the school day one hour longer? He wanted to know how students would be better served with this proposal.

Kimberly Saunders reported ample research on adolescent students and their need for 10-12 hours of sleep per night. It is next to impossible for most children. The American Pediatric Association reports that students will be able to function better and have better memory with more sleep. Behavior is positively impacted in schools that have tried this.

Jeff King, Peterborough, said that he likes the idea of older students starting later. He asked if anyone thought about flip-flopping and have younger students start earlier.

Kimberly Saunders reported that parents were surveyed and elementary parents said that this was opposed. So many of our families depend on older siblings for after school care. Younger children would arrive home with no one home to receive them.

Serena Berube, Peterborough, asked how it would be arranged that school buses would arrive at exactly the same time so that younger students would not arrive home first. Kimberly said that it would be a consideration if it was implemented.

Jessie Edwards, Antrim, spoke about athletics with a later start time. In his experience, the duration of practice; it started right after school until 4:20 when late buses came. Would practice be cut shorter, be longer, or stay the same? Would athletes leave class earlier as a result? Students should have the advantage of staying the entire class time.

Moderator said that it won't necessarily affect that. The bus routes to coordinate the start time of school is the impact under consideration.

Sarah Edwards, Antrim, said that students started at 9:00 and got out around 3:15 when she attended ConVal. It was successful for her. She would like to see it flip-flopped and have younger students start earlier.

Mr. Fernald moved his amendment as follows: "Single Tier Busing to allow one start time for all schools. Shall the Contoocook Valley School District adopt a single tier busing system, for all students in grades K-12, so that all schools in the District will begin the school day at approximately 8:30."

Mr. Fernald said that he is in support of the idea but not the cost. This has been a recommendation by the American Pediatric Association for years for teenagers. School used to begin later. Kids had jobs, some had sports. Kids rode buses together. It all worked. He was pleased when he saw the school board was working on this. He said that with all of the other money issues that we have, this is not favored.

In order to accommodate parent requests, two sets of buses would be on the same roads at the same time. With this amendment, with no dollar figure in it, the quest is "What is more important, the recommendation of pediatrics?" He shared further information.

Robert Eichler, Peterborough, second.

Amendment was read as follows: If passes it will replace what is on the ballot in the towns.

"Single Tier Busing to allow one start time for all schools. Shall the Contoocook Valley School District adopt a single tier busing system, for all students in grades K-12, so that all schools in the District will begin the school day at approximately 8:30."

No further discussion

In favor of amendment was asked:

The Moderator reported that after a visual holding of voter cards he is unable to assess. Therefore, a physical count was asked. Assistant Moderators assisted in the physical count.

In favor of amendment: 80

Opposed to amendment: 76

Any challenge to the moderators count. None.

The Moderator reported that the amendment will move forward on the ballot.

Kimberly Saunders asked that Attorney Eggert speak to the amendment now that has no money attached.

Mr. Eggert spoke to those present to address the fact that no money is attached.

Attorney Eggert said that the sum can be reduced by the citizens. This amendment changes from an appropriation and becomes a referendum without the appropriation.

It is the legislative body to express their opinion with regard to bussing. Without an appropriation and ability to expend funds, it will be advisory in nature. The legislative body are advising the School Board

Stephan Morrissey moved to reconsider the amendment. Linda Quintanilha second.

Mr. Morrissey said that he respects the motion to modify the article. The board puts forward specific verbiage for a reason. Absent funding in the budget, they likely can't do it or would have to find funding somewhere else in the budget. This would be an unfunded mandate of sorts. This is why he asks for reconsideration.

The Moderator asked those present if they were in favor of the reconsideration and opposed. The Moderator confirmed that the motion to reconsider the amendment passed in the affirmative.

Mark Fernald called a Point of Order. He asked what are we voting on now?

Attorney Eggert said that the Point of Order is well made. Moving to reconsider has passed. Next, further debate on merits would take place. Moderator would call the question. Another vote would take place.

Mark Fernald spoke to the reconsideration. If we go ahead with the original article it likely will not pass because of the cost. Start times would not change. If we pass this with no money and it is advisory, the board can look at it further in the upcoming year. They could cost it out and come back next year. We move the ball forward with the amendment.

Diane Burnett, Peterborough, said that we are already paying for them to go around twice. Money would be saved.

Mr. Morrissey said that it is less likely that a lesser figure be arrived at with the advisory option.

The Moderator said that vote to reconsider brings us back to amendment. He read the amendment as follows:
“Single Tier Busing to allow one start time for all schools. Shall the Contoocook Valley School District adopt a single tier busing system, for all students in grades K-12, so that all schools in the District will begin the school day at approximately 8:30.”

The Moderator asked those present to raise their voting cards in favor of the amendment.

The Moderator asked those present to raise their voting cards in opposition to the amendment.

The result was:

In favor: 50

Opposed:87

The Amendment is defeated.

The Moderator reported after hearing no further discussion on the core article. Therefore, it will appear on the ballot as originally presented.

Article 06: Appropriate to Special Education Reserve Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the Special Education Reserve Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2019 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The

ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Linda Quintanilha addressed this article. Ms. Quintanilha said that there is a trust that is kept to offset unanticipated special education costs. This article will fund the trust should funds remain at the end of the school year.

The Moderator reported that this will move forward after hearing no further discussion.

Article 07: Appropriate to Building Reserve Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to be added to the Contoocook Valley School District Building Capital Reserve Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2019 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Dick Dunning addressed this article. Dick Dunning reported that this assures that funds are available for major repairs. The intent is to lessen the impact on taxpayers by using these funds.

After hearing no further discussion, the Moderator closed further debate. This will move to the ballot.

Article 08: Appropriate to Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2019 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Stephan Morrissey addressed this article. Mr. Morrissey said that this article allows monies to be set aside for expenditures for equipment should the need arise.

After hearing no further discussion, the Moderator closed further debate. This will move to the ballot.

Article 09: Appropriate to Health Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Health Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2019 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019 with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Janine Lesser addressed this article. Ms. Lesser said that this trust fund would be replenished so that should health benefits arise to higher levels than budgeted, monies would be available.

Jim Creighton, Antrim, asked what he is missing if we are short on the budget but asking for more from somewhere else.

Kimberly Saunders said that these articles are from fund balances. At the end of the year, if we save money, and have funds remaining, we would begin to fund the trusts in the order they appear on the ballot. We raise and appropriate, if we run out of money, we would have to come back to the legislative body for a deficit appropriation. We cannot spend money that has not been appropriated. These monies get put into trusts in the event of an emergency.

After hearing no further discussion, the Moderator closed further debate. This will move to the ballot.

Article 10: Accept Reports of Agents and Auditors

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District accept the reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees, and Officers chosen?

Bernd Foecking addressed this article. Mr. Foecking said that this is a formality.

After hearing no further discussion, the Moderator closed further debate.

Article 11: School Board Salaries

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District appoint the salaries of the School Board and fix the annual compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as follows: School Board Chair, \$1500; each member, \$1000; Treasurer, \$2,500; Moderator, \$300? (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Jerome Wilson addressed this article. Mr. Wilson said that this articles sets forth the compensation for the board members, moderator, and treasurer.

After hearing no further discussion, the Moderator closed further debate. This will move to the ballot.

Article 12: Petitioned Warrant Article

Require that the School Board submit to the ConVal School District voters for their approval a comprehensive analysis and implementation plan detailing the financial, educational and social impacts that any school closure might have on both students and towns prior to proposing to the voters any plan for any school closure in the ConVal School District. (SUBMITTED BY PETITION.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Moderator Edwards shared that there was confusion on this because of the misprint in the recommendation statement. Videos were reviewed. To make certain, at last night's board meeting the board voted to unanimously support this article.

Mr. Edlekind, Dublin, said that he is the petitioner and one of the authors of this article. He thanked the School Board for their confirmation that they did recommend this article. This article should be the least controversial article tonight. This article is not suggesting one method or one option for consolidation. It states simply that voters require the facts and figures and that consolidation be analyzed and presented prior to voting for a model or option. This is important. There is a lot of information and a lot of emotion on consolidation. This article says "give us the facts in detail". Mr. Edlekind said that they are not recommending a consolidation. They are asking for information to make intelligent, informed decisions.

John Cronin, Bennington, said that he is aware of at least two comprehensive studies already on this topic. He cited the ConVal Elementary School Study that addressed specific issues. It references specific issues that are being asked of in this article. He urged all interested people to take advantage of what information is in the archives on this topic.

After hearing no further discussion, the Moderator closed further debate. This will move to the ballot.

Article 13: Petitioned Warrant Article

The School Board and Administration are instructed to prepare, by December 1, 2019, a detailed proposal to restructure the ConVal School District so that there are eight elementary schools with grades K-6, and one high school with grades 7-12. (SUBMITTED BY PETITION.)
(The ConVal School Board DOES NOT RECOMMEND adoption of this article by a vote (tally 10-1-0).)

Mark Fernald, Sharon, said that if this article passes, no schools will close. This asks for the district to come up with a plan for discussion. We now have 2,000 students with a lot more space from where we began with 2,000 students. Mr. Fernald said that we have at least 50% more space than 50 years ago for the same number of students. Voters have been waiting for a consolidation plan. There was a consolidation model committee. No proposal was put to the voters. Later, five plans were considered for consolidation or restructure; one included an enhancement. Some plans saved money. At the end of the retreat, they decided to study the plan that would cost over \$1.5M more with enhancements. Mr. Fernald reported on the work of the board on consolidation recommendations back and forth. The Articles of Agreement cannot change without 2/3's vote. Administrators feel that bigger schools would be better. If we are going to consolidate, the only way that it can happen is at the middle school level. There is enough room here at CVHS for the additional grades of 7 and 8. K-6 or K-5 could take place at the elementary schools. The purposes of this article is to ask the school board to come up with a plan and financial figures. Is there a way to save money and educate our children well?

Mr. Calcutt, Frankestown, asked that we have Articles of Agreement that require 2/3's vote to change. He asked if we wanted to change things, we need 2/3's vote to make change. Confirmed. Mr. Calcutt asked how this impacts this article. We continue to have these things brought up. We would first have to change the Articles of Agreement.

Mr. Fredrickson said that as he understands this article, it requires a study which would require a simple majority. It would not close any schools; it requires the study. Voters would have the opportunity to vote one year out.

Ann Harper, Peterborough, asked when elementary schools were renovated and built they were built with two wings. She asked if there was some way to lease out empty classrooms for office space or other use to generate revenue.

Moderator spoke about the undertaking that would be required and spoke about the different agreements and arrangements with various schools in place.

Mr. Fernald asked for a confirmation of his understanding that if the Articles of Agreement require eight elementary schools, but middle schools are not required. It is possible to reassign grades without closing an elementary school. Therefore, would 2/3 vote still be required to close a middle school?

Attorney Eggert, said that eight elementary schools are required. Latitude is given with grades. A plan of restructure that did not close schools but reassigned grades in a restructure that did not require a change to the Articles of Agreement. Elementary school closure requires a 2/3's vote. Restructuring would not require a 2/3 vote necessarily.

Closed to further debate.

Article 14: School Board Members

To choose Contoocook Valley School District Officers as follows: Five (5) Members of the School Board; one (1) from the Town of Antrim for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Dublin for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Hancock for a term of three (3) years; two (2) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of three (3) years.

The Moderator reported that this will go onto individual town ballots where an opening exists. Further debate was closed.

Myron Steere recognized Pierce Rigrod, School Board member representing Hancock, for his years of dedicated service to the students and citizens of this district.

Pierce Rigrod said that it has been an informative six years. He appreciated of being elected and the ability to work on behalf of students.

Stephan Morrissey motioned to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Moderator Edwards declared Deliberative Session closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok