

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

School Board Meeting

**SAU Office
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Alan Edelkind,
Jim Fredrickson, Katherine Heck,
Niki McGettigan, Stephan Morrissey,
Kristen Reilly, Crista Salamy,
Tim Theberge, Jerome Wilson

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Tim Markley, H.R.
Stephanie Syre-Hager, AES
Colleen Roy, GES
Nicole Pease, DCS
Jim Elder, GBS
Anne O'Bryant, SMS

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Stephan Morrissey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. School Board Vice-Chair Position (Board Vote Required)

Stephan Morrissey called for a vote for the position of Vice-Chair to the School Board.

Dick Dunning moved to bring Janine Lesser's name forward for the position of Vice-Chair. Kristen Reilly second. Unanimous.

3. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. October 1, 2019

Tim Theberge moved to accept the minutes of October 1, 2019. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

4. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Kimberly Saunders certified that Manifests listed totaling \$881,585.49 and Payroll totaling \$1,005,409.39 have been reviewed by her and found to be proper charges against the Contoocook Valley School District for goods and/or services received and have been properly processed prior to their submittal to the School Board.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the manifests as read. Jerry Wilson second. Unanimous.

5. Points of Pride

Kimberly Saunders reported on various Points of Pride as reported to her from administrators.

6. Public Comment

Bob Hayden, Standard Power, reported that he built a solar house 30 years ago but only put solar into it just two years ago. Standard Power has served the school district since 2013 for the purchase of power and has saved the district money. In addition, a hydro reimbursement has been provided. Mr. Hayden said that he is highly invested in renewable energy. He became involved in the solar power conversation several years ago for ConVal. In 2018, several proposals came forward. He was asked to look at projects and what was necessary for it to work. It had to be right priced and an investor who cares about the community was necessary. Mr. Hayden shared committee work he has been involved in. The life expectancy of the surface proposed for this project is over 30 years. Risk is borne by the investor. Mr. Hayden said that this is the right time at the right cost.

Corey, Dublin, reported that proper representation for tonight's discussion about DCS 5th grade is important and that the town should be allowed the autonomy to continue to make this decision. She urged the board to leave that decision up to the town.

Melody Russell shared what she called "an imaginary letter to the ConVal Community", where the decision to install solar panels on South Meadow School and ConVal High School was approved.

Karen Niemela, Dublin, spoke in favor of supporting the solar project at ConVal. Writing the letter of intent, which is non-binding is valuable. It is a multi-year savings, with nothing to purchase in the end. She said that the board should take the bite and move forward. Students could learn and benefit from solar. Karen further spoke about DCS 5th grade. She said that none of those that want 5th grade to remain at DCS do so because they want to preserve the educational environment. Ms. Niemela asked what the school really costs; absent this information it is difficult to make a decision.

Dory Drachman, Peterborough, said that she is part of the proposed solar project for ConVal. She wants to do this for the kids. It is the second fastest growing field. There are also the projected savings to consider. This will cost the district nothing and will be a net gain. The risk that students are experiencing as a result of greenhouse gases is enormous. This is one way to support our students.

Erin Nolan, Peterborough, reported that she sends her children to DCS because of 5th grade. She appreciates the opportunity for her child to have their last year at DCS and said that her child is now thriving at South Meadow School.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

Tim Markley referenced a job description for the Administrative Assistant/Applied Technology Center for a first read.

8. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Communication Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 12th at 5:15 p.m. at the SAU Office. Budget & Property Committee scheduled the tentative date of Thursday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.

b. ConVal/Conant Ice Hockey

Kimberly Saunders reported that total cost per child to play hockey is \$1,650.86. Last year there were 18 players total, 11 were ConVal, 7 Conant students. Conant students pay \$850.00 per player. ConVal students pay \$125.00.

The suggestion is to bring Conant to the table and request that the complete tuition be paid for their students.

Stephan Morrissey said that the original agreement was to fund for the first few years. Conant opted to pass the entire cost to the parents of students. Conant does not participate to any extent financially. The total cost of the hockey program is \$29,715.93.

Dick Dunning asked for clarification on what we are doing. Kimberly said that she understands that she is asking for a meeting with Conant. Jim Fredrickson said that this is a conversation and not an ultimatum.

Kimberly Saunders asked for clarification on which season under discussion. It would be for the 2020/2021 season. Moving forward, Conant will be asked to fund the difference and not pass it on to families.

Dick said that we need a commitment from Conant so that we can budget if this will be funded or if this program will even continue.

9. Reports

a. Student Representative – Lorien Tyne/Abby Kamieniecki

None.

b. Teacher Representative – Patricia MacFarlane

Kimberly Saunders reported that there has been confusion about who the teacher rep was.

c. Budget & Property Committee – Jim Fredrickson

Jim Fredrickson reported that discussion took place about the status of the budget that has begun. GMR for medical came in at 1.7%, which will be budgeted.

Jim said that Tim Grossi spoke about the three story wing and HVAC at PES. His recommendation is to incur expenses for engineering that would be a transfer of funds. This work will improve the system in that wing. The updated Trust Fund Summary was discussed. Solar was also discussed.

d. Strategic Plan Committee –Dick Dunning

Dick Dunning reported that an update on where the district is in the current Strategic Plan was shared. Using the plan to develop the next five year plan was discussed. The goal is to keep the plan as simple as possible so that it is clearly explain the focus.

e. ATC Committee – Stephan Morrissey

Stephan Morrissey reported that discussion on participation for obtaining credit for college courses for high school students took place. Encouraging students to take advantage of this is a focus. In addition, other colleges will be sought to increase after school programs for college credit. The progress of the programs in the ATC took place overall as well. Manufacturing and welding were discussed. There is a waitlist for welding. At the end of the full program for welding, a student could earn \$60K per year. The committee supports this and directed the administration to explore putting this program in our budget.

Crista Salamy asked if the welding program is a certification of completion of the program. Kimberly Saunders said that the certificate that they get is part of the manufacturing program.

Ann Forrest said that she thought that it was 130 hours that prepares a student to sit for an exam.

Stephan Morrissey said that he personally is in favor of this.

Kimberly Saunders agreed to explore the program further to confirm the answer to Crista's question.

f. Policy Committee – Tim Theberge

Tim Theberge reported that three policies were discussed. JCA, Change of School or Assignment, was agreed to move the date from June 30th to March 15th. Notification of staff by April 15th is a requirement.

Policy on Student Due Process change has to do with IDEA. In addition, reporting of child abuse or neglect was reviewed against the NHB policy. Likely to adopt. Tim clarified that our current policy reads that any employee is required to report. The State mandates that anyone in the State of NH who is a resident has a responsibility to report neglect or abuse. Our policy only talks about staff, designated volunteers, and contracted staff.

10. Old Business

a. Solar Power Discussion

Jim Fredrickson shared a summary of the program to put a solar array on CVHS. No capital costs, savings from year one, and educational value were the requirements to move forward. A spread sheet was provided from the group proposing. Jim shared that the capacity degrades over time. The assumption is that utility costs would go up by 2.5% every year in the analysis. Jim reported that this was looked at. Operating expenses were assumed to be zero, likely more than that, but still nominal. PPA rates were shared; a savings of 4% per kWh. Scenario savings were shared. The buyout is not mandatory, and in year 6 would be roughly \$400K. The rate changes over time and gets lower as years pass. We do save money. It is a nice thing to do. Roof maintenance concerns, in the event of significant snow were discussed in terms of cost. The proposed \$400K buy-out could be used for students now as opposed to this project. As it is laid out, it would require a sole source vendor and would be against board policy to do that. Consensus was that it is a nice project but not the project we need. A smaller system was mentioned.

Alan Edelkind asked if the system was smaller what it does to the numbers. Jim Fredrickson said that the reason for buying the system is not because of the numbers. More can be done with the \$400K. Is it the right thing to do, yes? But it is not a no-brainer.

Kimberly Saunders said that this is a value based decision. This is not something that is going to save an inordinate amount of money, which is fine too. We cannot go to the taxpayers and say that we are going to sign a multi-year contract because it is going to save us money.

Katherine Heck said that it is a multi-year contract and would have to be placed on a warrant article. If we sign the letter of intent it could still fail at the vote in March. It is more complex than just saying yes or no to solar.

Stephan Morrissey said that it is a value based decision. What will we lose if this is funded? This is a project that feels good but spending money on LED lighting is an immediate savings that are also environmentally favorable.

Dick Dunning said that he struggles with the value balance. If we say “do it” and we don’t buyout, all we need is one huge snowstorm for snow removal. Any savings would be lost. Part of him says that if this is value based, let’s take it to the taxpayers and ask to put risk up front. He has to make decisions on protecting the taxpayers.

Dick Dunning said that he has to look at what is best for students. There is not an educational component built into this proposal. The connection is not clear.

Jim Fredrickson said that a motion not to proceed with the project as proposed but rather work on a project that is downsized might be considered.

Stephan Morrissey suggested a motion on the letter of intent and a second on the exploration of another way to accomplish a project.

The letter of intent is non-binding. The next step would be a study on the viability of the structure of the roof. A warrant in March would come forward and then a sole source vote as well.

The company proposed is the only one that permits the investor.

Tim Theberge said that in his career he has seen sole source providers that one cannot get somewhere else. He asked if this is the only provider.

Jim Fredrickson said that we know what the federal tax credit is now and that it will go down next year.

Tim Theberge said that Hancock put solar panels on and recently had to remove them to conduct work. He is not interested in the risk. He has been in other districts that have had to shovel the roof.

Katherine Heck agreed with Mr. Dunning; she feels the same tug to do the value based decision and what is best for children in building and for taxes. It would be best practice to put this on a warrant but a dollar amount in year one should be included because of committing voters in future years.

Stephan Morrissey asked for a motion on the letter of intent.

Dick Dunning asked for clarification of the process. If the roof is viable, are we obligated or can we get out of moving forward? Bob Hayden said that it is a letter of intent to proceed. It is not binding until a contract is signed. A contract comes when a succinct project can be described. Town Meeting in March could determine if they support the program or not. Tim Theberge said that it still holds us to a sole source.

Dick Dunning motioned to approve the letter of intent to move forward until the next decision has to be made by this board. Kristen Reilly second.

Stephan Morrissey said that sole source policy would have to be waived in order for the group to go forward.

A unanimous vote of Policy DJE –Bidding Requirements is required to move forward unless waiting until the next noticed meeting to notify of the vote to waive.

Kristen Reilly asked why other proposals did not go forward. Criteria were shared of the three requirements.

Dick Dunning withdrew his motion. He said that he would like a vote of the board when all board members are present.

Waiving bidding requirements would require a 2/3’s vote if noticed and placed on the next agenda.

Stephan Morrissey said that he would like to table discussion about the sole source aspect until the next board meeting.

Kristen Reilly withdrew her second.

Dick Dunning said that he would rather have this as an agenda item and take a vote then.

This would go on the November 5th School Board agenda. Discussion was closed.

b. Dublin Consolidated School 5th Grade Discussion

Dick Dunning moved to have all elementary school students send their students to the middle school that supports the fifth grade for their town. Fifth grade students for Dublin would go to SMS.

Tim Theberge second.

Alan Edelkind moved to amend the motion to state that:

- 1. The incoming Kindergarten class at DCS (2020-2021 term) will be the last class that will be guaranteed the availability of 5th grade at DCS. 5th grade is guaranteed to be available for 6 years starting with the school year 2020.**
- 2. If, in any school year, there are less than 4 students that remain for being 5th grade students at DCS then 5th grade at DCS will not be utilized.**
- 3. If 5th grade at DCS is not utilized for 3 consecutive years due to lack of student population (see 2 above) then the guaranteed availability of 5th grade at DCS will be rescinded.**

Dick Dunning said that the amendment is fair. Dick withdrew his initial motion.

Tim Theberge withdrew his second.

Dick Dunning second Alan Edelkind's motion.

Alan Edelkind said that 5th grade would be guaranteed available for six years. If population goes down enough we will not take advantage of the availability. If availability is given up for three consecutive years, the guarantee will be given up permanently.

Dick Dunning said that next year's kindergarten class could be the last fifth grade with this motion. Confirmed.

Katherine Heck asked if it is conceivable to put in a date.

Tim Theberge said that Policy JCA-Change of School or Assignment, is an example of the policy where one can change their school assignment. If four Peterborough families want to send their students to DCS, does this support the requirement?

Dick Dunning said that is not the intent of this motion as he hears it. This is related to Dublin Consolidated School (DCS) and only DCS. This addresses if there is 5th grade at DCS.

Alan Edelkind said that Policy JCA-Change of School or Assignment, allows for students outside of Dublin to become students.

Kimberly Saunders said that when we have students move, they don't do so in the fifth grade to Dublin. It was noted that the Superintendent can deny a request. Kimberly said that she takes these requests on a case by case basis very seriously.

Jim Fredrickson clarified that at the end of six years, there would be no more fifth grade. A non-resident student would be counted in the DCS count was confirmed as part of the requirement.

Alan Edelkind said that he hears that when a parent requests to move a child, it is not done at the time of entering fifth grade. It comes before then; therefore the student would already be part of the DCS Community.

Tim Theberge shared concern with the word "guaranteed". If he goes back to this, it is unclear how the original Articles of Agreement are interpreted.

A break in the meeting was asked at 8:25 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:30 p.m.

The copy of the proposed motion was copied and shared.

Katherine Heck asked if this motion passed as written, does the word "guaranteed" supersede the Articles of Agreement.

Tim Theberge said that there are two uses of the word "shall" that are important. He is trying to figure out how the fifth grade still remains at DCS. He asked how it happens absent a motion or signed agreement that allows this to continue. This raises an equity issue for him.

Dick Dunning said that why fifth grade continues at DCS and only DCS is the question. History was shared. Dublin negotiated a deal to retain fifth grade at some point. Discussion has taken place about taking fifth grade forever. We need to wordsmith the proposed motion to make it work.

Stephan Morrissey said that over the past five years, there are two years where all DCS 5th grade students were sent to SMS.

Kimberly Saunders offered the following Wordsmithing:

- 1. The incoming Kindergarten class at DCS (2020-2021 term) will be the last class that will have the availability of 5th grade at DCS. 5th grade shall be provided until the 2025/2026 school year unless a change of the Articles of Agreement changes the organizational structure of District elementary schools.**
- 2. If, in any school year, there are less than 4 students that remain for 5th grade, 5th grade at DCS will not be utilized.**
- 3. If 5th grade at DCS is not utilized for 3 consecutive years due to lack of student population (see 2 above) then the availability of 5th grade at DCS shall be rescinded.**

Do Dublin families who wish for their students to come to SMS for fifth grade follow Policy JCA? Confirmed.

Alan Edelkind moved to amend his motion as Kimberly Saunders presented. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

11. New Business

a. 1st Read Policy

- JCA: Change of School or Assignment
- JIA: Student Due Process Rights

Both policies are first read policies. Any changes or questions should be directed to the Policy Committee. Kimberly Saunders noted that on JCA, number 6, where the change reflects “no later than March 15th.”

b. Adequacy Dollars

A Special Public Meeting would need to be called should the board decide that they want to utilize dollars in any way.

Katherine Heck reported that the adequacy, if we have a special meeting, can be called by two-thirds majority of the board. It takes a minimum of three weeks for a meeting to occur. Tax rates are being set right now. If tax rates aren't set, it takes weeks for the Department of Revenue Administration to confirm and tax bills cannot be sent out. It is recommended that adequacy would have line item expenditures outlined.

Another option is not to have this process and these dollars would go back to the taxpayers. Questions around that are up for discussion, cannot be used for tax relief and can only be spent on education.

Kimberly Saunders said that we are still awaiting an answer from our attorney. She recommended that the board move forward with the MS-25 and DOE-25 with additional adequacy dollars unless we are told at some point that we cannot. This would allow towns to set tax rates.

Katherine Heck further said that it is possible to offset the tax rate, the money still has to be accepted as unanticipated revenue.

Money would come in as unanticipated revenue and push the tax rate down.

Kimberly said that the State has been clear that these are one time dollars. With the reinstatement of stabilization dollars it will not be problematic. How much this will upset the district assessment should be 3 or 4% at most.

When does money become available to use? The State will send adequacy dollars to the district and it is divided up by the apportionment to the towns.

Directing the Superintendent, unless otherwise told by attorneys, to use adequacy dollars unanticipated revenue was confirmed.

12. Public Comment

Corey, Dublin, said that it was nice to hear the majority of the Board hear what Dublin wants. She thanked the board.

Dick Dunning moved to enter into non-public for matters of personnel legal, and negotiations. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

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

a. Personnel

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

a. Legal

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

a. Negotiations

Dick Dunning moved to exit non-public session at 9:24 p.m. Kristen Reilly second. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for personnel and legal for a period of two years and for five years on negotiations. Kristen Reilly second. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning moved to adjourn at 9:24 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok