

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

School Board Meeting

SAU Office

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning,
Alan Edelkind, Jim Fredrickson,
Katherine Heck, Janine Lesser,
Niki McGettigan, Stephan Morrissey,
Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly (7:10),
Crista Salamy, Tim Theberge
Jerome Wilson

Lorien Tyne, Student Rep.
Abby Kamieniecki, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Tim Markley, H.R.
David Jack, B.A.
Kat Foecking, FES
Amy Janoch, HES
Fabi Woods, TES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Stephan Morrissey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

a. October 15, 2019

Dick Dunning moved to accept the minutes of October 15, 2019. Tim Theberge second. Janine Lesser, Rich Cahoon, and Linda Quintanilha abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

David Jack certified that manifests listed totaling \$537,204.71 and Payroll totaling \$2,680,315.08 have been reviewed by him 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.

4. Expenditure and Encumbrance Report (Board Vote Required) – David Jack

David Jack reported little change in the past month. The budget status remains the same. There are no areas of concern.

Rich Cahoon asked if there were any new encumbrances within the report. David Jack confirmed that there were.

Rich Cahoon moved to accept the expenditure report and the encumbrances contained therein. Tim Theberge second. Unanimous.

5. Points of Pride

Kimberly Saunders shared various Points of Pride as reported to her by administrators.

6. Public Comment

Stephan Morrissey opened the meeting to Public Comment and reminded those present that they can speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

Emily Manns, Peterborough, Chair of the Peterborough Energy Committee proposing the solar project, said that there is no cost to the solar project for the district. There appears to be some confusion, there is an option to purchase the project out in year 6 but it is not required. The bond is funded by the additional savings of the project and not by taxpayers. She spoke about snow removal.

Dr. Joel Huberman, Peterborough, shared his concern about proposed risks with this solar project. If the School Board signs and subsequently signs, ConVal would be responsible for costs up to \$10,000. There are two ways to avoid the risk; sign the letter of intent this evening with the advantage of a faster start for the project and the investor would

benefit from the 2019 tax credit; or wait to approve next spring and there would be no reason to withdraw; risk would be of substantial cost savings.

Dory Drachman, Peterborough, said that she led the first solarized campaign. After bid, Revision Energy was selected for their project and they were pleased with their decision. The company is a quality producer and she shared various points of recognition that they have received.

Jonathan Bass, Peterborough, said that ConVal is fantastic for solar. He worked with the data provided for this project

Ann Huberman, Peterborough, said that the commitment requires some advance work before this project goes ahead. Steps are laid out in the letter of intent. If the board votes to sign the letter of intent and the exclusivity intent, the result will be a cost savings for energy.

Paul Frehner, Hancock, spoke about the level of anxiety he speaks with the youth about that they have with the environment. This project would have a positive impact on the environment.

Mary Lou O'Neil, Hancock, said that students past, current, and future need support. She spoke in favor of both Michelle Russell and Dan Weeks for their work on this project, both ConVal alums.

Steve Walker, Peterborough, said that he has a 30 year history in energy. He has been involved in many projects. Solar is a commodity; financing is not. The district wants clean energy, doesn't want to pay for it, and wants to save money. Revision Energy was the only company that has anything close to what this project needs.

Emma Shapiro-White, Peterborough, said that she has remained in Peterborough because of the community. She wants to invest in a community that invests in the environment. She shared her excitement for the project.

Michele Russell, shared her work on this project that she is confident in. The educational value of this project would be a natural way to inspire STEM curriculum. There is great potential for the development of learning modules. Thirty-three schools also have solar. She shared various ways that school districts have been involved in various ways in the project. She said that this is a win/win project.

Melanie Russell, Hancock, said that she would love to have our Points of Pride say that we have solar. She said that the board is looked to for leadership. She hopes for the letter of intent.

Amy Bright, Harrisville, said that she is excited about the solar project but shared one concern. She asked what would happen to potential renovations down the road should solar be on the roof. Is there a place on the ground to place the solar array?

Phil Suter, Peterborough, encouraged if any questions about this project arise to speak with Keene.

Brian Field, spoke about the positive educational component to this project. He said that the importance of this project should be recognized for the students.

Kaitlin Hassle, Peterborough, thanked the board for considering the project. She highlighted the anxiety about climate change in favor of this project. She asked that the board lead the way with this symbolic gesture.

Zoe Wirth, Peterborough, worked at the Cornucopia Project for years. It is important to act. It is her future. She said that the state of the environment and climate change causes anxiety. She asked the board to do the right thing and pursue solar.

Solar Discussion (moved up on the agenda) –

Jim Fredrickson spoke about his role on the Budget & Property Committee and in his employment. He said that this project is not a "no brainer". He said that the board decided that three important components must be included to consider the project; immediate savings, no upfront capital, and an educational value. The system will degrade .5% each year. It would be installed on a roof top, would require an investor, and there is a 30% tax credit this year for the investor. There would be a purchase power agreement with a buyout option in year 6 for roughly \$400K. Assumptions include utilities costs escalating at 2% each year which would result in greater savings if that is true. Revenue will vary depending on utility costs. After a buyout, if bought out, the savings would be \$50K each year.

Are utility costs going to go up 2% each year? Jim spoke about degradation of the system and the weather. Real project risks have to do with the roof. The evaluation of the roof would be conducted. One concern is the future potential roof cost. This would be ConVal's responsibility. Snow removal costs would make it difficult and expensive with solar panels. Is this \$400K buyout the best use of limited funds. On Saturday, much time was spent reviewing the

proposed budget. This would be a multi-year contract which entails certain things. ConVal's Bidding Policy requires a board vote to go with a single source provider. The letter of intent would be non-binding and conditional on the satisfactory condition of the roof. If the board moves forward tonight, we would be agreeing to put a warrant article on the March ballot. Intuitively, it appears that this could all be done. The immense amount of community support is evident.

Jim Fredrickson highlighted two motions necessary:

Dick Dunning moved that the district policy DJE be suspended in the case of the proposed ConVal High School Solar Project and that the project move forward with Revision Energy if the Board approves the Letter of Intent.

Jim Fredrickson moved to amend the motion to read that "the district policy DJE be suspended in the case of the proposed ConVal High School Solar Project".

Dick Dunning second the amendment.

Rich Cahoon said that Policies that require competitive bids do so for a reason. If ever there were a project that should be subject to competitive bid, it is one that binds the district to a contract for 20 years. Regardless of the merits of the project, he has a problem with sole sourcing.

In favor: Alan Edelkind, Jerry Wilson, Dick Dunning, Kristen Reilly, Janine Lesser, Jim Fredrickson, Linda Quintanilha, Niki McGettigan

Opposed: Tim Theberge, Rich Cahoon, Crista Salamy, Katherine Heck

Motion carried.

Jim Fredrickson moved that the project move forward with Revision Energy as sole source supplier. Linda Quintanilha second.

Opposed: Tim Theberge, Rich Cahoon, Katherine Heck, and Crista Salamy.

All others in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Fredrickson moved to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a non-binding letter of intent for the purpose of moving forward with Revision Energy with the proposed solar project at CVHS and that a Warrant Article be prepared for March 2020 subject to legal review.

Linda Quintanilha second.

Rich Cahoon said that this was presented in Budget & Property Committee as a letter of intent, not binding to the district in anyway. The \$10,000 was not mentioned before but now shows up in the letter of intent.

Stephan Morrissey said that this goes in front of the voters if it is multi-year obligation. The letter of intent requires us to negotiate that letter and not accept it as is presented.

Niki McGettigan asked if it is a warrant article and it is not supported what happens?

Kristen Reilly asked where the educational component would be visible. Would it be part of the letter of intent?

In favor: Alan Edelkind, Jerry Wilson, Dick Dunning, Kristen Reilly, Janine Lesser, Jim Fredrickson, Linda Quintanilha, Niki McGettigan, Katherine Heck, Stephan Morrissey

Opposed: Tim Theberge, Rich Cahoon

Motion carried.

A five minute recess was called at 7:55 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:02 p.m.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

1) June 2020 Retirements

Tim Theberge moved to accept the resignation of Gib West in June 2020. Dick Dunning second. Linda Quintanilha added that it is accepted with great thanks for all of his work in the district. Unanimous.

Tim Markey asked that he be paid in July 2020 for his buyback.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the request for buyback paid out in July 2020. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

2) June 2021 Retirements

Tim Theberge moved to accept the June 2021 resignation of Janice Hughes. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

3) October 2019 Resignation

Tim Theberge moved to accept the resignation of Kathryn Artzerounian in October 2019. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

4) 2019-20 Nominations

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the nomination of Julie Anderson for the position of Special Education Teacher at SMS. Tim Theberge second. Unanimous.

5) Co-Curricular Nominations

Tim Markley referenced the co-curricular nominations for notification only of the board. Mr. Markley noted that the three Block 5 positions were scratched from the list because they are not happening.

6) Job Descriptions – 2nd Read (Board Vote Required)

- Administrative Assistant/Applied Technology Center (ATC)

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the job description as presented. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Linda asked when records are destroyed. Rich said that they can be destroyed when requested to do so by parent or student.

8. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

The Education Committee meeting was cancelled on Thursday, November 7th.

Budget & Property Committee will meet on Thursday, December 12th at 5:30 to finalize the proposed budget.

b. November 1, 2019 Enrollment Update

Kimberly referenced the November 1st enrollment data.

c. Field Trip Requests (Board Vote Required)

1) South Meadow School, grade 8, students will travel on April 20-24, 2020 to Philadelphia, PA, Washington D.C., and Gettysburg, PA for the American Heritage Tour.

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the field trip as proposed. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

d. Field Trip Requests (Board Vote Required)

1) ConVal High School, grade 9-12, students will travel on February 20-23, 2020 to Boston, MA to Harvard Model Congress.

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the field trip as proposed. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Kimberly Saunders referenced two letters from students that were written as part of a class assignment.

e. Budget Update & Timeline

David Jack reported that as a result of decisions on Saturday, the proposed budget increased \$1.447M, which includes universal preschool. The total proposed budget is now \$48,262,839.83 which reflects a 3.09% increase.

Dick Dunning asked about middle school soccer discussed on Saturday. Kimberly will look into.

Rich Cahoon said that the budget was going to go up \$600K regardless. Preschool resulted in the difference.

Rich Cahoon insisted that the additional staffing is the difference for the small school model.

Kimberly expressed her concern more with the following year's budget. Preschool and a teacher's contract will impact.

Rich asked the legalities and the mechanism that we approve preschool formally. It is a two year item. Does it have to be its own warrant article or in the budget?

Kimberly said that she is worried about the lack of state funding that impacts the taxpayer.

David Jack said that it behooves the board to be cognizant of the following year's budget. It is the revenue that is needed and it is diminishing. It will complicate itself. The funding mechanisms used in the past won't be there. There is no way to replace them without another source of revenue.

Rich Cahoon said that every two years the NHRS resets their expected rate of return. Next year is likely to be bigger than the current year.

Rich Cahoon asked about the Athletic Trust. The FCVA and ConVal Football Boosters wanted to buy the speaker system that got taken care of by the district. They are looking to purchase legacy gifts that would be longstanding. Kimberly Saunders suggested that Katherine Heck and she set up time to meet with the FCVA so as not to cloud roles.

Rich Cahoon said that the reason we are squeezing down the undesignated fund balance is because the Selectmen have been requesting that for several years.

Kimberly Saunders said that the reason this is higher is because we did a soft freeze last year.

Katherine Heck said that there has to be wiggle room with the budget. She said that there is a point that the cash flow may be affected.

Kimberly said that the recommendation is to have approximately \$800K in unreserved every year.

Rich Cahoon said that we have discussed putting a warrant article about retaining a 2.5% balance in trust in the past.

9. Reports

a. Student Representative – Lorien Tyne/Abby Kamieniecki

Lorien Tyne reported that the boys' soccer won their first round. Boys XC competed in the Meet of Champs and did well. National Honor Society applications went out, new members coming soon. Action against climate change. Abby Kamieniecki reported that 39 pints of blood were donated yesterday at the blood drive. Nov. 16th is the date of the craft fair in the gym from 10-3.

b. Teacher Representative – Patricia MacFarlane

None.

c. Education Committee – Jerome Wilson

Jerry Wilson reported receiving a status report on the proposed Universal Preschool. Discussion centered on the scope of the program. In addition, supporting student's social and emotional needs was discussed. Supporting students who have experienced trauma was focused.

Dick Dunning said that he has not seen anything come forward that is more important than Universal Preschool.

d. Communication Committee –Niki McGettigan

Niki McGettigan reported that an overview guide for the year took place at the last meeting. An inventory grid showing communication coverage in newspapers and Twitter since last July was reviewed. What was noticed was that the summer programs were not communicated. This is an area in need of improvement. Niki reported that the need for a communications person was discussed. Contracted service providers would be the focus to search for fulfillment of this need.

e. Food Service Committee – Linda Quintanilha

Linda Quintanilha reported that the committee is recommending that the summer food service program continue. Discussion took place about someone else taking this on took place. ConVal is centrally located. The committee wanted to bring this forward.

f. Selectmen's Advisory Committee- Tim Theberge

Tim Theberge said that the transition of leadership was a continued discussion. John Jordan will not seek a new term. Discussion of the broadband issue in the district was discussed and updates provided. Dublin has gone out with their RFP as well as Hancock. Brief discussion on enrollment also took place.

g. Policy Committee – Rich Cahoon

Rich Cahoon said that if a policy is discussed in committee and no changes, the policy would be noted under this reporting for the record.

10. Old Business

a. Policy DJE – Bidding Requirements Discussion and Potential Waiver (Board Vote Required)

Discussed and voted under agenda item 6 above.

b. Solar Power Discussion

Discussion took place under agenda item 6 above.

c. 2nd Read/Adoption Policy (Board Vote Required)

- JCA: Change of School or Assignment

Linda Quintanilha moved to adopt policy JCA. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

- JIA: Student Due Process Rights

Linda Quintanilha moved to adopt policy JIA. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

11. New Business

a. 1st Read Policy

- EBBD: Indoor Air Quality

- JLF: Reporting Child Abuse

Rich Cahoon noted these policies for first reads. Please send any comments to the Policy Committee.

b. NH Municipal Bond Bank

Kimberly Saunders reported three different scenarios for a potential bond.

David Jack reported out on several factors with respect to a potential bond. ConVal has the potential for capacity to borrow according to Bond Bank. School Building Aid entails 18 months of work to know what would be supported. ConVal is approved for 36% building aid. If the bond goes this year, there would have to be coordination to determine what we would be eligible for. It would cost \$200-300K to service the debt in the first several years. Decisions on if a

staggering is desired with building aid or to run the two and not pursue a bigger bond this year need to be made. Bond payments and interest in specific years were noted. 3.2% to 3.75% are anticipated interest rates.

Rich Cahoon said that we should not do anything that jeopardizes building aid.

Discussion took place about the need for renovations for both middle schools and parts of the high school.

A letter of intent would be dated before the start of the year with work to begin within six months.

Rich Cahoon asked if the work needed could be narrowed down and listed. What is in the budget? What is in the CIP? What is in if we don't do a bond?

12. Public Comment

None.

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 enter into non-public session for matters of personnel, legal and negotiations at 8:57 p.m. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Linda Quintanilha motioned to exit non-public session at 9:31 p.m. Jerry Wilson second. Unanimous.

Tim Theberge motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for the first discussion of negotiations for 5 years. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

Tim Theberge motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for the second discussion of negotiations for 5 years. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

Tim Theberge motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for the legal for 5 years. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

Linda Quintanilha motioned to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok