

# OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road  
Peterborough, New Hampshire

## CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

### Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 23, 2020

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** John Jordan, Dale Gabel, Bob Marshall, John Robertson, George Willard, Karen Hatcher, Alan Edelkind, Janine Lesser, Tim Theberge, Steve Ullman, Dr. Kimberly Saunders

#### 1. Accept Minutes of December 12, 2019

John Robertson moved to accept the minutes of December 12, 2019. Karen Hatcher second. Unanimous.

#### 2. ConVal Proposed Budget

Dr. Kimberly Saunders reported that the next part of the budget process is Deliberative Session. Warrants will be posted no later than January 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### 3. Warrant Articles

Dr. Saunders said that a Power Purchase Agreement was to the warrant as well as the creation of a Trust to support the agreement. In order to buy the solar project out in a later year, it will cost approximately \$400K. The idea is to save for the potential buyout incrementally.

In addition, a warrant article for \$542K for paving was removed from the warrant.

A growing concern is that our newest buildings are nearing 25 years old. We have not renovated in any substantial way, the middle schools or the high school. Some work had been done to the high school gym wing and science wing. We are not spending money at the middle schools or high school because we are spending money on program and people. We are looking at putting \$550K this year in a capital reserve to try and be able to have a clear plan about how we manage our 11 facilities.

We have recently applied for building aid for the potential of reimbursement for projects that qualify. Janine Lesser pointed out that the local newspaper has stated that Revision Power has been identified but that is not true. The District is in negotiations.

Tim Theberge said that there is the letter of intent and the potential for Revision Energy and then there is the warrant article. Dr. Saunders said that the board voted to do a sole source procurement but that vote could be overturned.

John Jordan asked about the increase in the administrator line. Dr. Kimberly Saunders said that there was an administrator added last year and one has been added for PES in the proposed budget. We have used contracted services for many roles where possible.

Dr. Saunders spoke about the diverse needs of students today. The district has to address these needs. We have to be able to respond to behaviors that is appropriate and meaningful for students. She said that she needs a communications person; she would use contracted services to fill this need.

John Robertson referenced an article in the Concord Monitor that spoke about what it would be like if schools depended only on state funding.

Dr. Saunders said that she has faith that the ConVal lawsuit has put political pressure to come to a resolve quickly. Property taxes cannot be the only way to fund education.

Karen Hatcher said that there is a Commission under development on education. The meetings are public. There is talk on holding these meetings around the State. For more information, visit:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/committees/1506/default.html>

Steve Ullman, Antrim, said that this is the third time that a Commission has been formed.

Karen Hatcher further said that the communities need to pressure the State to get this right.

Dr. Saunders added that adequacy dollars are up; kindergarten aid for full-day is part of this and the second is that some of the dollars are physical disparity and are one time only.

Discussion took place about the Petition Warrant Article.

#### **4. Trust Funds**

No Discussion.

#### **5. Capital Improvement Plan**

Dr. Saunders said that we will be looking to pass a bond next year and part of this is strategic. What happens in the first year of a bond is that only an interest payment will be due. The following year will be a new teacher's contract. This avoids spikes in the budget.

The initial thought is between \$20 and 25M over a period of time dependent on the rates.

John Jordan said that he thought that the bond is a good idea. If you can get all of the work done in a short amount of time the escalation costs and mobilization costs are lessened.

Dr. Saunders referenced a list developed as a first attempt to calculate the default budget included in tonight's packet. At the beginning of the list, items with a lower impact on children and education to those with a higher impact were referenced. Kimberly said that another deeper look has occurred and a revised list will result. The board has asked for a list totaling \$2.1M in cuts in the event of a default.

#### **6. Configuration**

John Jordan said that he thinks that there are alternatives to consolidation. The towns have no use for those buildings.

#### **7. Other**

Dale Gabel and John Jordan said that they are not running for Selectboard in March; their terms are up.

The next SAC meeting is February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Dale Gabel moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Karen Hatcher second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok