

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**ConVal High School**  
**District Meeting – Part I**  
**Tuesday, February 4, 2020**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:**

**Moderator Bob Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.**

**CVHS Student, Frank Dinino lead the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mr. Edwards welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to District Meeting.

He introduced himself as Moderator and introduced Attorney John Cronin as Assistant Moderator. In addition, he introduced Attorney, Dean Eggert, School District Counsel.

Mr. Edwards said that Deliberative Session is the legislative body that serves as the vehicle for what will be voted in March. The Rules will be Moderator Rules and may be overruled by a simple majority vote. Each article will be read and a School Board member or petitioner will be recognized to speak on behalf of the article.

Motions to amend will require a second. All amendments must be presented to the moderator in written form.

Once the article is closed, a motion, second and majority will be brought forward. If voted in the affirmative, the article may not be brought up again. The motion for reconsideration may only occur after a vote has closed.

Registered voters may vote by using a voter registration card provided at registration.

A registered voter may request that a non-registered voter speak and, by vote, may be allowed.

Speakers will be recognized in order at the microphone with the exception of one raising Point of Order. Voter cards are used for voting purposes and when approaching the microphone to speak.

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

A secret ballot vote may be requested in writing with five signatures. A secret vote may also be requested by seven voters immediately after the moderator has declared the vote and before any other business has been discussed.

Motion to move the question is not debatable and will require 2/3's vote. Motion to move the vote will not be entertained until both sides of the discussion have taken place.

Chairman Stephan Morrissey was recognized for opening remarks.

Stephan Morrissey welcomed everyone tonight to conduct the important business of the district. He said that the board looks forward to their input.

School Board members and SAU Administrators introduced themselves. Jerry Wilson, Katherine Heck, Tim Theberge, Alan Edelkind, Crista Salamy, Kristen Reilly, Niki McGettigan, Dick Dunning, Linda Quintanilha, Tim Grossi, Janine Lesser, Dr. Ann Forrest, Lori Schmidt, Dr. Kimberly Rizzo Saunders, Stephan Morrissey, and Jim Fredrickson.

Moderator Edwards read the following:

**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 **fourth day of February, 2020**, next at **6 o'clock in the evening** for the first session of the Annual School District Meeting (snow date: sixth 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.
Fracestown	Fracestown 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 **tenth day of March** next for the second session of the Meeting (polls will be open for voting by official ballot at the second session)

### **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 \$50,565,103? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$49,142,616, 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, Budget & Property Committee Chairman, said that a short presentation on the proposed budget will be shared. If the budget is not voted, a default budget will result. He referenced the "School Budget Primer" which shares how the budget is developed. How district tax assessment is calculated is also detailed in the Primer. The default budget is explained as well in the report.

Dr. Kimberly Saunders referenced a handout on the budget. She said that the main drivers will be reviewed. Dr. Saunders said that most of the budget is made up of salaries and benefits. More than 75% of the budget is in staffing. 9% of the budget makes up telephone, internet, and tuition. Other portions of the budget reflect contracted services for specific services such as background checks, certifications, and other services that the district does not staff for. General supplies include fuel oil, propane, and gasoline, as well as water and sewer to name a few. Equipment was detailed as well as debt service and a category of other.

This year's budget is an increase of \$1.5M in the operating budget. Guiding questions were reviewed. When budgeting, the question asked is "Is this request mission critical?"

The largest drivers have been salaries and benefits; salaries are up 4.54% and benefits are up 2.18% over last year. Combined, those cover existing staff and increases in staff. First, there is a decrease of five positions with the addition of 4.2 full-time staff. Dr. Saunders outlined the changes in staff.

Contractual increases for transportation as well as other contractual requirements were noted. Lastly, the increase of 88.57% in the equipment line includes several new vehicles, a cub cadet type vehicle for maintenance, and the replacement cycle for technology.

ConVal is looking to expand our current preschool program. Preschool is prescribed federally. In the past, we were able to educate students in private preschools. There are not enough preschools in the area to meet the need. Dr. Saunders shared the preparedness level and various challenges that students arrive with. New Hampshire is one of five states in the United States that do not offer a robust preschool program. For every dollar that we spend on preschool, there is a savings of \$2-\$6 later on.

Every time the budget is discussed, the default is discussed. If the budget does not pass, we go to default. Default is a calculation and not a separate budget. It is last years' approved and adopted budget plus contractual obligations, those mandated by law, minus one time expenditures. The default is \$1.4M less than the proposed budget. \$1.4 comes from staffing, programs, facilities, and supplies. We look carefully at what we need to do for students.

First, Tier 1 items are looked at, which are those with the lowest direct impact on students. Tier 2 includes those that have a lower direct impact on the quality of programming. Tier 3 include programs outside the school day/year and would significantly impact programming. Tier 4 are those programs that take place during the school day/school year. Lastly, Tier 5 would impact the Core Essential Program in terms of cuts.

Tom Welden, Hancock, spoke about student enrollment. Enrollment has not increased in the elementary schools. He said that we cannot continue to pass on the discussion of keeping schools open with less than 50% capacity. It

is not an affordable situation. Mr. Welden said that we are adding a program, the Preschool for All, and are lumping it in the budget. Our school charter calls for K-12 and not preschool. He questions the mechanisms that this is going on. The cost would approximate \$400,000 next year and additional thereafter. He said that he agrees with it but said that it should be voted separately. In addition, he said that 3% added to staff with population declines is unacceptable. The board needs to address this in a more substantial matter. Things have changed, population has changed, the district has lost one-third of its population. Dr. Saunders said that the enrollment history is included in "We are ConVal". No further discussion Debate was closed by the moderator.

#### **Article 02: Appropriate to Building Reserve Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$550,000 to be added to the Contoocook Valley School District Building Capital Reserve Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2020 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020, 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.)

**Katherine Heck moved Article 02.** Ms. Heck said that the fund has \$1.37 M and is anticipated that \$917,000 will be spent from the fund on the high school parking lot and for the HVAC system at Peterborough Elementary School (PES).

Jim Creighton asked if that is in addition to the proposed budget. Kimberly said that if there are dollars left over at the end of the year, those dollars will be allocated to funds in the order they appear on the warrant.

Jeanne Dietsch, Peterborough, asked if PES is a very uncomfortable place to teach with temperatures. She has heard that there are also problems with insulation at PES.

Tim Grossi, Facilities, said that primarily heating and ventilation for a three story building can see 90 degrees on the third floor. We are replacing a ventilation system that does not have air conditioning with one that does.

No further discussion; debate was closed by the moderator.

#### **Article 03: Appropriate to the Athletic Trust Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Contoocook Valley School District Athletic Trust Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2020 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020, 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.)

**Richard Dunning moved the article as read.** Mr. Dunning said that this allows us to set funds aside for major renovations or repairs and other things related to athletics so that the cost impact can be minimized.

No further discussion; debate was closed by the moderator.

#### **Article 04: Appropriate to Health Trust Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Health Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2020 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020 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 said that setting funds aside to insulate against the medical costs for the district is prudent. No further discussion; debate was closed by the moderator.

#### **Article 05: Power Purchase Agreement**

Shall the District authorize its Board to negotiate a lease of property or an easement agreement with a solar provider on such terms and conditions as it deems to be in the best interest of the District for the purpose of installing a solar panel array and related equipment at the High School property and further to authorize the Board to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with a third party investor for a term not to exceed 25 years, with provisions for a buy-out of the agreement subject to subsequent appropriation, on such terms and conditions as the Board deems to be in the best interest of the District, with the understanding that the Board may decline to enter into either of these agreements if it deems the terms and conditions not to be in the best interest of the District. (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article by a unanimous vote.)

Jim Fredrickson said that this is a good program. One of the reasons voter approval is needed is because it could be up to 25 years. There will be an option to purchase the system in a later year which will result in an increased savings. Once approved, a letter of intent can be finalized and contract. The project could be located on either the roof or the ground.

No further discussion; debate was closed by the moderator.

#### **Article 06: Establish and Appropriate to Energy Projects and Efficiency Fund**

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the Energy Projects and Efficiency Fund, for the purpose of funding alternative energy projects and energy efficiency projects, including but not limited to, future buyouts in the event the District enters into power purchase agreements, as well as funding the design, construction and implementation of alternative energy projects and projects designed to conserve energy, and shall it raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000 to be placed in the fund; further to name the school board as agents to expend from this fund. (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.)

**Tim Theberge moved the article as read.** This will provide the funding should the power purchase agreement move forward and allow the buyout opportunity to have funds available without additional appropriation. This fund is also established to allow spending for other efficiency upgrades such as deploying LED fixtures. He recommended support of this article.

Jim Fredrickson added that this trust is different than the last three, this would be a separate appropriation.

Jeanne Dietsch, said that the State Administration of Health and Human Services invoked a rule that cut all reimbursements to the tune of \$300k this year. A bill is being fast-tracked that will allow this to be revoked. She said that is likely not incorporated into the proposed budget.

No further debate; discussion closed by moderator.

#### **Article 07: Accept Reports of Agents and Auditors**

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

**Niki McGettigan moved that the article be accepted as read.**

No further discussion; debate closed by moderator.

#### **Article 08: 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.)

**Janine Lesser moved this article as read.** These are the amounts that the school board, moderator, and treasurer for their services.

No further discussion; debate was closed by the Moderator.

#### **Article 09: Petitioned Warrant Article**

To see if the District will vote to set the reimbursement rate for facilities utilized by the District that are controlled by another entity. The District shall pay a percentage of agreed costs calculated as follows: (hours per day utilized by District multiplied times the annual days utilized) divided by (twenty-four hours multiplied times three hundred sixty-five days) equals District percentage. The Controlling Entity shall pay the District for agreed maintenance incurred and utility costs for the facility at a rate calculated as follows: (One hundred percent minus District percentage). (SUBMITTED BY PETITION)

Myron Steere, Peterborough, said that this was submitted as a matter of fairness. There are a couple of instances where the district is sometimes unfairly charged. Peterborough has charged for tennis and softball fields when used for only a quarter of a year. The second entity is Antrim; the district pays 100% of heat and electricity for the Antrim Gym. Other work conducted by the district was outlined. Since we are paying 100%; currently if we used the formula, the amount would be less. The Antrim Recreation Department should reimburse the district for heat and electricity.

No further discussion; closed from further debate by the Moderator.

Dean Eggert, District Attorney, said that the article was reviewed to determine if it would have a binding effect on the district or if it would be advisory. After looking at law, in order for this to be binding, it would be an overreach of the legislative body on the governing body. It would mean the governing body would give up its authority to contract for these types of arrangements. In sum, the legislative body has a function and the governing body as well. This would be a referendum article; and would share their wishes of what they would like to see.

Jim Fredrickson said that negotiations for the Antrim Gym are currently under way.

Myron Steere, Peterborough, said that this should be voted in to give the school board the thought that we should be paying appropriately.

Tom Welden, Hancock, said that Fran Chapman brought us SB2 and we used to have discussions at these meetings. We have a proposed \$50M budget with no dialogue about spending \$50M.

Ken Phillips, Peterborough, said that as a community when there is a budget such as this, there are different viewpoints. When it comes to finances, it can be very challenging. We can be sensitive to our neighbors who have concern. His concern as a parent of two children in this district said that it is crucial to approve this budget at the amount that the School Board has approved. If we lose this budget, are the things that will make our students the kinds of people that will lead in the future taken away. The kinds of activities are those that are incredibly important. He cited the Nordic Team as important. He has seen an incredible impact on this one activity in terms of commitment, team work, etc. He has seen them evolve into the kinds of people that we want to lead the community years from now. The return on investment (ROI) for the tax dollars leads us to ask what are we really buying. He encouraged the passing of vote on this budget.

Holly Wilson, Frankestown, Alpine Coach and Team Captains, thanked the board for their hard work putting together the budget. This team has thrived tremendously in the past five years. If Alpine is cut in the default, she asked the board to remember that sports build good citizens. This team wants to get the vote out to encourage the passing of the vote.

Dennis Calcutt, Frankestown, said that the Article asks us to be more accountable. He emphasized that we voted in \$50M and sat quiet. Many come and trust what is happening here.

No further discussion; debate closed by the Moderator.

#### **Article 10: School Board Members**

To choose Contoocook Valley School District Officers as follows: Six (6) 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 two (2) years; one (1) from the Town of Frankestown for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Greenfield for a term of one (1) year; one (1) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Sharon for a term of three (3) years.

Moderator Edwards said that this will go on the town ballots appropriate to each town and is statutory.

No comment; debate was closed by the Moderator.

Moderator Edwards said that he has the pleasure of acknowledging School Board members whose term has ended and they are not running for a future position. He read a resolution acknowledging their work on the board and the appreciation of their time serviced on behalf of ConVal staff and students. Crista Salamy and Kristen Reilly were recognized for their years of service on the Board

Moderator Edwards thanked everyone for coming and attending tonight to speak on the articles.

With no other business to address, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Myron Steere moved to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok