

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire
CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Policy Committee

Tuesday, May 19, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83063343662?pwd=UHZxMHJOdHpIcW0zN3liVGNIQWthdz09>

Meeting ID: 830 6334 3662

Password: 1jJRfQ

Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: 830 6334 3662

Password: 276350

MINUTES

School Board Committee Members:

- Katherine Heck
- Janine Lesser
- Kevin Pobst
- Tim Theberge
- Stephen Ullman

Present: Janine Lesser, Kevin Pobst, Tim Theberge, Stephen Ullman, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Lori Schmidt, Alan Edelkind, Katherine Heck (5:27 p.m.), Dr. Ann Forrest (5:35 p.m.)

1. Call Meeting to Order

Janine Lesser called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Suicide Prevention Policy

Dr. Saunders referenced a previously shared document in Google Drive. In particular, a sample policy JLDBB, Suicide Prevention and Response was discussed. What must be included in the policy and what is not required necessarily were reviewed. The sample policy has pieces not required by law or that exceed the law. The Policy Committee and School Board will need to decide what they would like included. Kimberly Saunders; recommended not including items not required by law in the policy. Kimberly said that if the policy is beyond the law, the district takes on the associated responsibility.

Kevin Pobst suggested that the implementation pieces would be important to know in advance. Kimberly said that the policy has not yet been adopted so she does not know yet.

This policy is far more prescriptive than most other policies. Policy should be as timeless as possible.

Tim Theberge agreed to take the documents and bring forward a first draft.

Janine Lesser said that there are staffing and budgetary notations included. She asked the Superintendent if she believed additional staff would be required. Kimberly Saunders said that she will know more in time; likely November.

Sometimes, pieces of legislation are driven by a particular organization or group. Kevin Pobst asked where this legislature came from. He said that he asks in the event that we anticipate that personnel, time, or money might be needed. It would be interesting to know more about the driver.

Kimberly Saunders said that this came at a time where the State saw a pretty significant increase in pre-teen and teenager suicide. While NAMI and other groups were involved, this evolved out of a need. She agreed that the two-hour training for each staff member is a concern. Dr. Saunders said that we have very skilled people locally as well as several social workers in house. She added that she believes that the lobbying came after the legislature.

Stephen Ullman asked if it would be possible not to hire a Suicide Prevention Coordinator and give current staff additional training with Suicide Prevention experts.

Dr. Saunders said that the amount that our two social workers are trained in i.e. CPI, LSCI is significant. Adding more eventually changes their job description.

In the document, 2h. Dissemination of the plan is not in SB 282, Pg. 3, item 2 is not in the policy. Annual Staff Training recommendations should state a start date rather than the March 2021 completion date.

What would be included in the Student Handbook? A note that resources are available and contact information. The key in the ConVal School District is to tie in working with local community resources.

3. Town Payment Policy Development

Tim Theberge said that there is the expectation that towns are making payments. When it goes awry is when a policy is needed.

Dr. Saunders said that she cannot find another district in NH that has a policy on Town Payments. She can reach out to the district attorney to request a draft with appropriate information.

Janine Lesser said that the RSA clearly states that the towns have to pay the school district.

Stephen Ullman said that the school district has no ability to borrow money but the towns do, as Dick Dunning had noted at another meeting. In addition, the district has ongoing debt obligations.

Kimberly Saunders said that she felt that Katherine Heck has the best skill set to draft a policy and then run by the district's legal.

Katherine Heck said that she could find no existing policy on this topic through her connections. She added that a policy would read like a board procedure. It could be effective in outlining the payment schedule and state that the payment will be made no later than "X". It would be a clear and concise process. Otherwise, a memorandum of understanding would be needed and would be a legal binding document that would surpass policy.

Janine Lesser said that she thought that a table would develop that would highlight the expectations of the towns in terms of payment. She asked if we are going beyond that. Katherine Heck said that the district already provides the towns with a payment schedule.

Kimberly Saunders said that one of the things that happens is that a town will call the Business Administrator requesting more time to pay. She does not want that decision to fall on the Business Administrator. That level of decision making should fall to the Board. A recommendation from administration should accompany it. Decisions should not be made for one town and then another.

Kevin Pobst said that he thought that a description of what the district will do in good faith with the towns should be included in the policy. Expectations from the towns would be outlined as well. A draft could be shared with the Selectmen's Advisory Committee.

Katherine Heck shared that, over her 15 years as Greenfield Treasurer, she has noticed changes in the payment schedule. It is important for cash flow. It is more the process and the procedure for town payments.

Stephen Ullman agreed with Janine not to cast too far.

Tim Theberge said that he was in favor of getting something in writing to put towns off in calling to make special requests. There is a higher bar that needs to be established for a town to make such a request.

Kevin Pobst asked the procedure to get something on a future Policy Agenda. The procedure was to go to the Chair and she will consult with the Superintendent.

4. Other

None.

5. Adjourn

Stephen Ullman motioned to adjourn at 5:57 p.m. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok