

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 28, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87424648590?pwd=S056TlY3Qmh5TTA2eVRQU0FXTS9SZz09>

Password: 6u9AAM

Telephone: 1 301 715 8592

ID: 874 2464 8590

Password: 875702

MINUTES

Present: John Robertson (Antrim), Bob Marshall (Greenfield), James Cleary (Bennington), Karen Hatcher (Peterborough), Jeff Brown (Hancock), Henry Kunhardt (Francestown), Diane Callahan (Sharon), Tim Theberge, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Alan Edelkind, Stephen Ullman, Rich Cahoon, Janine Lesser, Kevin Pobst

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Leadership of SAC- Election of Chair

John Robertson asked for nominations for Selectmen's Advisory Committee Chair.

James Cleary nominated John Robertson for Chairman.

John Robertson nominated Karen Hatcher for Chair. Henry Kunhardt second.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Karen Hatcher accepted the nomination and nominated John Robertson as Vice-Chair. Bob Marshall second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

2. Report from the District on Remote Learning and COVID-19

Dr. Kimberly Saunders reported that she has been posting weekly updates via web and other avenues to communicate out on the district's work on remote learning as a result of COVID-19. Kimberly said that in late February phone calls started to come in about concerns that students travelled to Italy and there was concern about their return. Concern grew about COVID-19. ConVal rolled out remote learning on March 15th; students were sent home on the 13th with materials in hand. Two days were spent with staff preparing for remote learning. Remote learning began on March 18th. Initially we believed it would last approximately three weeks. As a result of the generosity of taxpayers, we previously placed a Chromebook in students hands grades 5-12. With the younger students, the goal was for students to remain constant and not slide back. Technology, including hotspots, were deployed where needed. Work to support students, staff, and parents with the use of technology occurred.

Meals were delivered, both breakfast and lunch, totaling 1,800 meals daily being delivered to students on buses. Elementary school work was packaged weekly and sent home on the buses with meals and mailed home to K-4 students. For many students, this became part of their routine and the only contact each day.

Elementary staff and students embarked in Google Classroom. ConVal prepared for a shift in the event of significant teacher illness. We conducted an initial launch and then a second launch. No one saw this coming and we had to build it as it happened. Kimberly reported receiving a lot of information. She met with town administrators. Two surveys were conducted with staff and parents. We have shifted now to talk about reopening. We have formed reopening committees which are made up of board members, hospital staff, police, and fire, as well as a Select board Advisory Committee member.

Karen Hatcher stopped to recognize Kimberly Saunders for the heavy lift involved in making all of this happen.

Kimberly thanked SAC and noted that it is the work of her amazing staff.

Stephen Ullman said that Kimberly Saunders and Dr. Ann Forest have done amazing work transforming the school system.

Kimberly shared a video of last week's "Weekly Update" to parents and staff. She has conducted a staff weekly meeting to keep everyone in the loop. Six committees and a Steering Committee are under formation. They included a Governance Committee, Wellness Committee (think mental health), Instruction, Facilities, and others.

Bob Marshall asked what the SAC volunteer is needed for. Kimberly said that it is needed for the Governance Committee which is the overall Steering Committee.

John Robertson asked Dr. Saunders if she has financial information on Remote Learning and reopening.

Kimberly reported that \$815,000 is estimated savings at this point. Unanticipated costs are \$1.1M. Kimberly said that she is hoping that these figures will balance themselves out. The district went to the drawing table to look more deeply at services that the district is legally required to deliver. This will bring us closer to \$1.6M in costs. We will look closely at CAREs dollars; they haven't been released. A new executive order requires the district to have a meeting with every student, which totals approximately 300 meetings, by June 30th and then 300 by Sept. 30th. When teachers are in school, they are under contract. When they work beyond that contract, we need to pay them at a per diem rate for their time. She said that she is not anticipating a huge unreserved fund balance. It has shrunk as a result of our tightening the budget prior to COVID-19. Remote learning costs and costs needed for intervention will roll into the fall.

3. Role and Mission of SAC in the current situation- How can we be helpful?

Karen Hatcher said that she is interested to know how this group can be part of the effort and part of the solution. She is looking for School Leadership to inform the towns.

John Robertson agreed, he said that this committee is a resource.

Tim Theberge said that SAC's thanks and praise are greatly appreciated.

Rich Cahoon said that this committee, under the Articles of Agreement, Article 4, shall have the responsibility to meet with the School Board for District financial planning, inputs and other matters of mutual interest.

Rich said that the financial planning now requires a COVID response. The school district will need the cooperation of town entities i.e. mutual response etc.

John Robertson said that this year, SAC needs to go beyond the Articles of Agreement and get our hands dirty.

Alan Edelkind said that it is important for SAC to stay involved with board members. Our (School Board) ability to communicate to all of the people in the towns is different than the Select board. Keeping everyone in the towns informed is important.

Karen Hatcher asked everyone present to introduced themselves.

4. Any old business updates (broadband, etc.)

Karen Hatcher said that in the last year or so, we have started to work together toward shared purposes like broadband. We all have similar challenges. We have worked to identify those challenges and leverage the towns toward working on them.

Tim Theberge said that Hancock has 75% of town coverage by highspeed broadband. It is been challenging to find vendors to finish the work. He spoke about work and discussions underway to increase speed and access.

5. Meeting schedule going forward

Karen Hatcher said that SAC typically meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Following that schedule, SAC will meet next on June 25th.

Karen Hatcher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok