

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 25, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81240181643?pwd=ckpkV3Z4c0QxQXVwczVpK1kyVWdmZz09>

Password: 8qf1cW

Telephone: 1 301 715 8592

ID: 812 4018 1643

Password: 024023

Minutes

Present: Karen Hatcher (Peterborough), John Robertson (Antrim), Diane Callahan (Sharon), Dr. Kimberly Saunders (CV Superintendent), Janine Lesser (Peterborough), Alan Edelkind (Dublin), Tim Theberge (Hancock), Carole Monroe (Dublin), Jeff Brown (Hancock), George Willard (Temple), Bob Marshall (Greenfield (7:16 p.m.))

1. Call Meeting to Order

Karen Hatcher called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Karen introduced herself to those present and welcomed everyone.

2. Accept Minutes of May 28, 2020

Diane Callahan moved to approve the minutes of May 28, 2020. John Robertson second. Carole Monroe abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

3. Racial Equality and Policing

Karen Hatcher said that there have been protests in towns around the region calling for justice and "Black Lives Matter" and looking at the way we police.

Karen said that for the last five weekends, protests have been taking place in Peterborough calling for justice. A public listening session was held this week, attended by 70 people, allowing listening experiences from our towns. She said that it was enlightening to hear the experiences people have had. The less exposed we are to different cultures, makes it difficult to see it differently. Developing a plan, including community conversations is underway.

Karen asked other Select board present what, if anything, is happening in towns.

Carole Monroe said that it was a topic in Dublin this week. Dublin Police were hesitant to release policy but did. Dublin is also considering a meeting such as Karen described, to ask questions.

Jeff Brown reported that Policy is being worked on in Hancock.

Tim Theberge said that Hancock has had community supporters line the roads.

Diane Callahan said that Sharon is part of the Peterborough Police so there is interest in hearing the conversation.

Karen Hatcher said that Peterborough is planning to build community resilience and increased training. If we are going to help our kids and our community understand about and talk about how biased happens, awareness is increased. This is not something that is going away.

Carole asked if there is a plan to increase curriculum on this topic.

Kimberly Saunders said that we have curriculum in place to teach about different cultures. She said that we have to be more intentional in New Hampshire because we are not diverse. It becomes difficult to talk about differences and bias online. It is a balancing act.

Karen said that she anticipates innovative teaching tools emerging from this. Whatever we can do to make it better, we should do.

4. Emergency Broadband Funding

Tim Theberge reported that the Governor announced a \$50M grant to provide “last mile” broadband internet coverage in New Hampshire. Amongst the things that needs to be provided, are the addresses that will be connected. There will be challenges coming up with a list. For some towns, it will include the entire town, so it will be easier. To do the entire district, Tim estimates \$12.5 to \$15M to cover all nine towns.

It is interesting that they use the term “last mile” because that typically means connecting areas and not starting from the beginning.

Carole said that it really is a difficult proposition. Connection would have to be delivered by December 15th. There are challenges having or getting access to the pulls. Equipment orders are on delay. She said that many carriers are trying to figure it out. It requires a shovel ready project.

Kimberly Saunders said that unless you were already starting down the road, you might miss out on the dollars. Carole said that you have to be able to connect the customers at a certain level by December 15th. The RFP process has to take place. 90% of the cost has to be put up, up front.

Carole added that different states are looking at it more stringently than others. It makes it difficult.

Karen Hatcher said that Peterborough did jump on this. They put an RFP out quickly. They are hoping for the coverage for the neighborhoods that are not covered.

Diane Callahan said that she sees that Temple conducted a survey on coverage. Sharon has 16 square miles total with three miles of coverage in place. Diane said that she is not sure where to begin.

Carole offered Diane Callahan some advice on where to begin. Carole said that 83% of Dublin residents do not have broadband that meets the minimum.

Karen Hatcher said that now, more than ever, the importance of broadband is evident.

5. Update on Fall School Re-Opening Process

Dr. Kimberly Saunders reported that the district has a large task force made up of seven subcommittees consisting of over 100 members. They are working on putting together a framework for school reopening. Immediate work includes getting a survey out to parents. A guiding document is underway. Bi-weekly videos will begin the week after July 4th. The updates will share planning underway and changes as they occur.

Karen said that this is a huge task. She is impressed by the level of considerations; open completely, open partially, and completely closed. She said that the work is daunting and it is heroes work.

Diane Callahan asked if CAREs dollars have been released and the meetings will be happening. Kimberly Saunders said that the CAREs dollars have been allocated; \$334,000 is slated for ConVal. Equitable services decreased this by almost \$65,000. Dollars have gone to the deployment of technology and other services, some of these dollars are a reimbursement. The second part, is that we are required to meet with any student and parent to reassess extended school year for services by June 30th and then again by September 30th. Kimberly said that she was worried because teachers are not contracted in the summer and would need to be paid. There are dollars encumbered for this year and line transfers might be required to make sure people are paid for work outside of their contract.

Kimberly said that the Steering Committee is adding specific community members to their forces.

On another topic, Kimberly reported that the school year is ending. The district's unreserved fund balance estimate will be reported out on June 30th. It is not hard and fast. We have had to encumber money for potential costs associated with compensatory services. We have been tightening the budget over the past six or seven years so she does not anticipate the unreserved fund balance to be as large as in the past. Auditing is typically complete by September 1st.

Karen Hatcher said that SAC could meet in person, in a larger room, to allow space and distancing. Karen asked those present their thoughts on meeting by Zoom or in person. Several members said that they were done with Zoom.

Tim Theberge asked if it is not easier for some to meet by Zoom to allow for attendance.

Karen asked if anyone present was opposed. If anyone has a health concern, Zoom is the way to meet. SAC will meet next on July 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

A public comment came in expressing that Zoom allows the public to attend.

Bob Marshall spoke about the closure of Crotched Mountain. It is an issue that the district will be facing. In addition, the Governor has issued an Executive Order #56 that will enable towns to raise less money than what was voted to closely align with anticipated revenues.

John Robertson motioned to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Carole Monroe second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok