

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire**

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Work Session

NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Thursday, July 30, 2020

6:30 p.m.

**Physical Location: ConVal High School Gym
184 Hancock Rd., Peterborough, NH**

Virtual Location :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85473037819?pwd=OXRmdVlvRmRQZGQrbnRZZk5aVzY0UT09>

Password: **2SHPkF**

Phone: 1 301 715 8592

ID: 854 7303 7819

Password: 614442

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Alan Edelkind,
Jim Fredrickson, Katherine Heck,
Janine Lesser, Niki McGettigan,
Kevin Pobst, Linda Quintanilha,
Robert Short, Jr., Tim Theberge,
Stephen Ullman, Jerome Wilson

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Mark Schaub, Tech.
Ben Moenter, Special Ed.
Carrie James, H.R.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Rich Cahoon called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration

Not applicable to this meeting.

3. Updates and Feedback to Administration on Reopening

Kimberly reported that the administration and many staff have worked over the past three weeks on the ConVal School District Reopening Plan. It is a comprehensive plan.

Feedback from the board is sought tonight so that it can be considered for entry into the document. The plan will go back to the board next Tuesday for approval. The plan will go out to the community tomorrow. Parent and community meetings will take place.

A feature of the plan is that K-8 is a five day a week, in-person program. Families can opt for remote if they prefer. Grades 9-12 is a four day per week plan with a flex day. In-person one week, remote the next, alternating between the blue and the gold teams. Half of the high school will be in-person for four days, with a flex day on Friday. The following week the gold team would come in for four days with a flex day on Friday while the blue team was remote.

The framework made sure that the work was thorough. The Implementation Team took the framework and turned it into an actionable plan. Tomorrow morning there will be an all staff meeting.

Grades 5,6, 7, 8 will be individual school building meetings with the option for in-person or Zoom.

What is being asked for today is feedback. Staff and parents will be asked their thoughts on the plan. A survey will be sent out asking parents to commit by August 14th to either remote or in-person instruction. Once school begins, there will be an option to ask for a change in delivery with a lead time required to prepare for that request.

There will be a COVID-19 monitoring team made up of emergency planning people, facilities director, superintendent, and assistant superintendent looking at COVID numbers in towns and the state. Different levels of transmission were shared. We are starting with minimal to moderate community transmission which allows us to begin with in-person instruction. Should there be substantial transmission, we will move to remote and identify in-person instruction opportunities for specific students. A daily protocol will be combined with a dashboard that will appear on the ConVal School District website to identify the status of each building. Every family can choose either in-person or remote. We are asking to begin school on September 8th and begin a segmented calendar.

From September through Thanksgiving will be in-person instruction. Opportunities for outdoor learning will be incorporated. From Thanksgiving through Martin Luther King Day will be remote instruction as a result of an anticipated influx due to travel.

Two weeks of vacation will take place from Martin Luther King Day resuming with in-person learning due to anticipated warmer weather and outdoor learning opportunities. Remote and in-person learning will be choices.

Kimberly Saunders outlined the screening process for students and staff. For students and staff, a temperature check resulting in 100 or more will result in being sent home. A designated space for students to report to until picked up will be assigned.

Questions will be asked about contacts and travel that if result in a yes response, will result in remote learning. Additionally, specific arrival plans are in place. Not more than 22 students on a bus, not sitting with anyone unless from the same household. Regular ongoing bus sanitization with cleaning after every route will be in place. When children arrive, signage will be in place to direct students to areas to enter based on pods. Students will be screened again once they arrive at school. We are asking and preparing for social distancing of six feet or more. We are incorporating those spaces into classrooms to allow students to learn in a safe environment while connecting with their peers and teachers.

Hand washing protocols will be in place. If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs, the NH DHHS and Bureau of Infectious Disease will be contacted. All students and staff on the pod or team will be contact traced and notified by email and/or mail. It is possible for us to close a pod instead of a school, a school instead of the district.

Staff development will be implemented to prepare for students returning. We are asking for support from families and giving support to families. All teachers will have office hours in which parents can contact them. Training for parents in Google Classroom will be available. Families will be asked to, if at all possible, drive their student to school. Transportation is the largest hurdle in this plan. Families should become familiar with other students in their students pod to create car pool opportunities.

If internet access is a problem, hotspots may be provided. Live streaming grades 5-8 will be available.

In our program, there is a "day in the life of a student" to share what a day might look like.

Pods may consist of students grades K-4 to keep families together. Each pod will have access to all services. The number of students in a class will be minimized to 15 or below. Some classrooms will be multi-age to meet the threshold. Program will be just as rich and robust as in the past.

Lunch will be a little different. Breakfast will be "grab and go" and both breakfast and lunch will be in the classroom, outdoor space, or socially distanced in the cafeteria. Recess will be scheduled by pods to prevent and minimize crossover of potential viral spread. The play areas will be limited to support social distancing. Play structures will be cleaned in between pods accessing the space. Students will be dismissed by pods and student dismissal will vary by school.

Grading and assessment will include testing by the end of October as required and not a choice. A teacher's day aligns closely to a student's day. They arrive and are screened. Masks are required. Periodic mask breaks will be scheduled and will not occur at the same time for all students and staff. When students are outside, if properly social distanced, they may remove their mask if distance can be maintained.

Remote learning will occur with ongoing classroom instruction through Zoom and Google Meets.

In K-4, remote program, students will be assigned a remote teacher. Students from various schools may be assigned to a remote teacher. Classroom teachers will have time every day to support parents and children. In person learning K-4 is a five-day program each week.

The plan K-4 mirrors instruction for in person as closely as possible. School counselors will be available K-4 for social/emotional support.

We are working with the Boys and Girls Club for before and after school care as long as we have the space available to do that. In addition, SKIP is still an option.

Middle School Instruction will have students and teachers put together in pods. Pods will consist of students grades 5-8. The number of students to allow physical distance has been decreased. Middle school students will be in school five days a week.

Our curriculum will remain robust and strong. School counselors are available. Blended learning will be implemented that will allow interaction with a teacher. It will be used to maintain proper class sizes.

Two changes include EHP or ELP program elimination for one year.

Blended learning lab will be used to access algebra through the high school.

The day in the life of a middle school student was outlined.

Students and staff will be required to wear a mask. Students will remain in their space for core instruction. Students will travel to unified arts and outdoor space will be maximized. Lunch will be provided and brought to students. Students will have the option to remote in for live instruction.

Cocurricular and athletics will not take place.

The ConVal Blue and Gold Group at the high school will attend in person and remotely on alternating weeks. Athletics and co-curricular might occur remotely.

The block schedule will be followed and students will be expected to remote in or be in person.

Flex Friday was detailed to allow collaboration and parent, student, teacher contact.

Rich Cahoon referenced a "Feedback Window" that was sent to School Board members.

What was liked most:

Tim Theberge shared a list of what he liked in the plan.

Kevin Pobst liked that the plan was evidence based. It reflects that what was learned from the spring was built on. Choices for parents are a positive. Opportunity to be an upgrade from the spring. Results of parent survey appear to have been given weight.

Stephen Ullman reported that this is an extraordinary document. He liked the glossary. Impressed with page 9 with data to be reviewed and daily protocol. Data sources are pertinent. Great work!

Janine Lesser- appreciates the support built in for families; social/emotional supports. Creative combination of calendar, pods, and classroom to take advantage of the virus and vulnerabilities to keep everyone safe.

Niki McGettigan – commended leadership of each of the strands on the Steering Committee; clearly overwhelming. Likes thought that went into holiday break, going into remote. She has looked at many plans. Looking at the return of college students in March and breaking for two weeks is appreciated. Many elements were considered. Everyone is a hero.

Linda Quintanilha – said that she is proud to be serving alongside everyone on this board to support administrators, teachers and staff. She is grateful that information was repeated for each of the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Questions-

Assuring balance in number of weeks for each of the blue and gold teams at the high school.

Define flex day in the plan.

How long do you anticipate it will take to recreate the pre-Covid norm?

How will Universal PK reopening plan look?

When we go into remote pieces of calendar, will core subject receive higher prominence?

Is there a deadline for parents to let the district know if they will transport their child/children or if they need transportation?

When you go into remote, will teachers be allowed to teach from their classrooms remotely to allow access to resources or do they bring everything home?

We are currently in green mode, how close are we to yellow? What type of projection information do we have?

Interactive simulcasting for students learning remote is very appealing. Students will be in the actual classroom as it is taught. This is going to be done in many classrooms, simultaneous. Teachers will be teaching and juggling technology. What is the confidence level that the education will be quality? The response was that one of the reasons we are starting school on September 8th is to allow teachers to work with the technology and learn. Our teachers are capable but we want to make sure that they are comfortable.

Mark Schaub said that teaching in a classroom while simulcasting is less complicated than what we are trying to do tonight. Classrooms will have more control. Mark continued to share how simulcasting while teaching both to those remote and in person would look like.

Is there an expectation to expand pick up and drop off times to get the kids through the door and screened; it seems a daunting process?

Multiple entrances with multiple screeners will be in place.

Can we legally share information about student contact information with families of students in the same pod?

Will COVID increase our municipal liability? This has not been heard of.

It should be stated that we are opening as "Green" mode. Not stating this was also suggested because of the potential for change in September. We can plan for "Green" but it could change.

Invitations will be sent out by principals inviting parents/families to attend a live or remote meeting. A screencast will be sent home to families.

Do we have information about positive testing for antibodies? No.

What happens if a travelling specialist tests positive? Specialists are assigned for a specific pod for a certain amount of time. Those individuals will go to a pod for a specific amount of time.

Itinerant staff, SSP's and service providers, will have a special schedule developed for them. The intent is to keep them to as few pods as possible.

What do you feel needs to be added to the document?

No visitors are allowed; community groups should be made aware.

It is a district, and not the NHIAA, that will determine what athletics will look like. This should be communicated.

Adding a FAQ section was suggested to address commonly asked questions.

Any links that get created for FAQ's or could become resources for remote learners should be added to the document.

Could all principals and contact information be provided at the end of the document?

Document should include more about what a blended learning lab looks like or is.

Description about composition of pods might be helpful.

Adding a section about special education, IEP's etc. A section about how IEP meetings will be conducted was suggested.

What needs to be taken out? Nothing.

Kimberly Saunders reported that everyone present is significantly spaced and will have masks. Present tonight are teachers and administrators who have given up three weeks to put this plan together. Not all could be present tonight who worked on this plan.

A weekly update will begin. A draft plan will be sent out and final will not be ready until next week.

Kimberly Saunders encouraged any and all feedback emailed to ksaunders@conval.edu.

Kimberly urged that those who are listening, if you know someone living in the district considering attending ConVal schools to register early. We look forward to the students and staff coming back to school. We have embraced the concept of the return to school in person. Staff will be surveyed for those who have a documented reason why they cannot return to work and those that would prefer not to return so that work can be done to plan.

Kimberly Saunders thanked everyone for their time.

Rich Cahoon thanked administration and the huge team that worked on this document.

Board members should expect to receive another draft of this document prior to next Tuesday's meeting. Deadline to submit input is Sunday evening.

4. Other

None.

5. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II (If Required)

a. Negotiations

b. Personnel

c. Legal

Katherine Heck motioned to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Linda Quintanilha second. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok