

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Monday, August 24, 2020

School Board Meeting

6:30 p.m.

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

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84204494470?pwd=OTJYMmtMRI9pWUhQRHdqYXQvZjc0QT09>

Password: 4zi2Dc
Phone: 1 301 715 8592
ID: 842 0449 4470
Password: 692453

Minutes

BOARD

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

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Carrie James, H.R.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Mark Schaub, Tech.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.
Heather McKillop, CVHS
Larry Pimental, PES
Nicole Pease, DCS
Kat Foecking, GBS
John Reitnauer, CVHS A.D.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Rich Cahoon called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Rich Cahoon read the statement for "*Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration*".

2. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II

- a. Negotiations**
- b. Student**
- c. Legal**

Tim Theberge moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 6:36 p.m. for negotiations, legal, and student matters. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Janine Lesser moved to exit non-public session at 8:04 p.m. Tim Theberge second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Rich Cahoon mentioned a governance point. He reminded that when a board member receives a complaint or concern from a member of the public, that sometimes, the school district has the responsibility to respond within a certain number of days. If you hear a complaint, it is important to inform Kimberly Saunders right away.

Tim Theberge moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for period of five years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

3. Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration

Rich Cahoon previously read the “*Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration*” at the opening of tonight’s meeting.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

1) Nominations – August 2020

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the nominations of Marissa Busby, OT, \$45,600, and Catherine Mandeville, Student Support Counselor, \$50,600

Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

2) Staff Justifications

Remote School Teacher – this is a position that it is necessary based on numbers in schools and in remote. We need an additional staff at third grade.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the nomination for a third-grade teacher to continue remote. Tim Theberge second.

Stephen Ullman abstained. All others in favor on roll call vote.

School Counselor – the rationale behind this request is to be able to manage our model this year, and to dig into what we know are some lasting impacts of this on students, and assigning a specific support counselor at the middle school.

Linda Quintanilha asked how a counselor counsels’ children at the elementary level. She is talking about mental health and behavioral health.

Cari Christian-Coates said that we provide social emotional support to students and their families. We do not do therapy. We would refer a situation.

Linda Quintanilha asked the role of this person. They would not do individual care. They would support peer situations?

Cari Christian-Coates said that there is a difference; a student support counselor would support students at high risk levels. We are anticipating impact from the Senate Bill on our resources. We don’t have student support counselors at the middle school level. We anticipate students who left us at high risk will be at higher risk. Support will help determine what student needs are.

Kevin Pobst asked if these are single year positions. It was confirmed that these are one-year positions.

Stephen Ullman asked if these two types of counselors receive different types of training. Cari Christian-Coates said that a school counseling certification is required for School Counselor positions. The support counselor might have a master’s level social worker or mental health counselor endorsement or license. The focus is on mental health, but at different levels. We are trying to set up so that the school counselor can be in the classrooms for support. It exists in the elementary schools. We are working it into the middle school level. These are recommendations to allow smaller caseloads to provide crisis intervention. School Counselors could move in to provide classroom support, providing wellness through health and advisory.

Linda Quintanilha moved to accept the two counseling positions. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

6. Old Business

a. ConVal School District Reopening Plan

Kimberly Saunders reported that concern came forward from an event that took place in New Ipswich. Tim Grossi is working with our tent vendor. Our tents were professionally installed. Manufacturing specs were followed. Fire chiefs and other inspections are in place. We have assigned all of the students, teachers, and staff members. Parents will be hearing about class assignments. We have over 73% of students returning in person. 20% remote, and 6% withdraw for various reasons.

In terms of staff, 85% in person, 15% working remotely or some hybrid model.

Friday will be a day for remote teachers to collaborate together and to meet with students. When students are remote, having a day to catch up was preferred.

Class loads for remote and in person. In person 15-18, remote 9-17.

Stephen Ullman asked about the positioning of tents for AES and GBS. Tim Grossi said that he is not aware of a tent on Shea Field. We were able to accommodate tents on AES and GBS.

Rob Short asked if there is a protocol in place should a storm or wind event occur with students in tents.

Kimberly Saunders said that tents are rated for various weather. They are part of the emergency procedures for thunderstorms, wind, and other events.

Jim Fredrickson asked about the COVID monitoring team. Kimberly said that they are set up and meeting tomorrow morning. She is working with a local vendor to set a dashboard up. The team is looking at historical data. Chief Walker has been helpful when looking at historical public data. Jim Fredrickson asked for a report out on the color that we are opening in. Kimberly said that the dashboard will get updated daily.

Tim Grossi said that models per school vary. Middle and high school look similar. They have put together plans that will work out. At the end of the day certain materials will remain under the tents. Technology will be brought inside daily. In terms of security, local police will patrol. We are also contracting with an outside firm for additional security support.

Tim Theberge asked about TASC block at the high school. It is occurring regularly on Friday as a set plan. Confirmed. This is in addition to other extra help provided.

Heather McKillop clarified that the intervention portion will occur during the academic day. Both cohorts will remote into TASC on Friday to participate together.

Linda Quintanilha asked about security during the day working with special education students. It was clarified that security coming on campus are not coming to manage students. It is about managing the outside in.

b. Dublin Christian Academy Food Service Discussion

Lori Schmidt reported that Dublin Christian Academy (DCA) was talked about as adding it as an additional site. After coming back with a price, DCA has declined to participate as cost prohibitive.

7. New Business

a. 1st Read Policy

DFA: Investment

Janine Lesser said that this is a simple readoptment. It has to be approved every year.

This is a first read with no recommended changes to the policy language.

Tim Theberge said that two additional RSA's are needed.

Katherine recommended change in language to the procedure in a written request. Kimberly said that she is asking for the internal control procedure. It is an "R" and not in the policy itself.

Rob Short asked if under item 2 on page 2, should an employee disclose any interest and not just material interests. Policy Committee will consider the recommendation.

JICD: Student Discipline and Due Process

Janine Lesser noted a change of the addition of the word "school" before the word "rules", on page 2, third paragraph.

EBCE: School Closings

Under "Delayed Opening of Schools", the first sentence reflects a change to now read as "The Superintendent may delay the opening of schools upon determining that conditions exist that a delay in opening schools is necessary or that weather conditions...".

ECA: Buildings & Grounds Security

The first sentence was changed to include "security contractors".

b. ConVal High School Athletics

Kimberly Saunders referenced the plan for fall sports. John Reitnauer was present to share information. The plan provides the opportunity to begin the conditioning that is necessary for athletics as well as to reassess the situation that we go through for athletics. It provides athletic training and a clear reassessment for the fall to reassess if we believe if we can compete regionally, or at the NHIAA level, based on our competitors and where they are coming from.

John Reitnauer said that the national federation that we are governed by has guidelines. They placed all athletics in a low, moderate or high category. Low risk is cross country, track and field, swimming, golf, tennis, alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, and sideline/grounded spirit.

Moderate risk is volleyball, soccer, baseball, softball, ice hockey, field hockey, girls' lacrosse, gymnastics, and bass fishing.

Higher risk is basketball, football, wrestling, aerial spirit, and boy's lacrosse.

Linda Quintanilha asked about unified sports.

Kimberly Saunders said that unified is not a category. If we are going to run soccer, we would run unified soccer.

Kevin Pobst said that it appears that we are on a trajectory to have interscholastic competition for those sports at low risk. Kimberly said that it would be a goal to conduct competition for low risk sports. John Reitnauer said that it would be based on whether there were enough athletes in a given week to compete. We are not going to mix cohorts.

Kevin Pobst asked if work to group sports in the same cohorts is taking place. John said that is not the case. Heather McKillop confirmed that creating cohorts is about not mixing the two together. If a student was exposed, nine towns could be exposed.

Stephen Ullman asked about no bystanders or spectators at sports. He asked if this could be hard to contain.

Rich Cahoon said that we are only talking about high school sports. Middle school sports will not take place.

Linda Quintanilha asked if there are not enough sports for unified sports or a JV team, is there thought about intermural only. Kimberly said that it could be looked at, but it is not part of the plan right now.

Rich Cahoon said that we have sports involving lower risk. Those teams will be holding practice. John said that he would like that to happen if possible, if he has teams on a schedule that can accommodate us in those sports.

Rich Cahoon said that if the board approves, John will see if he can come up with the competition.

Moderate risk groups would conduct skills and drills and conditioning at a social distance. Coaches would put plans together with modifications. There is some possibility of competition depending on where we are in the pandemic and if a schedule can be created.

Rob Short asked how bass fishing moves to moderate any differently than golf. The response was that it involved the proximity of people in the boat.

Moving to phase III requires board approval.

John Reitnauer said that with regard to football, he does not recommend that we compete in football this season. Skills and drills would be conducted.

Linda Quintanilha asked if we can make this document public to allow them to see it. John Reitnauer said that the schedules he has in place have been in place for about one year. Continuation would be based on regions out of Keene and Milford and availability.

Linda Quintanilha said that it sounds like everyone will have skills and drills and those that are safe to compete will be planned.

Jim Fredrickson said that tonight, the board is voting on the five-page plan with Phase I and Phase II and a board vote would be required to go to Phase III.

Organized activities cannot begin until September 8th. John Reitnauer said that waiting until after the second cohort comes to school will occur first.

John said that he would have to find out who is participating and meeting with coaches.

Rich Cahoon said that we can vote on it this week. Letting the public see it is not a terrible thing. We are going to make decisions based on student safety and not public polling.

Tim Theberge moved to approve the plan as presented. Kevin Pobst second.

Kevin Pobst said that the plan is a structure.

Linda Quintanilha said meeting after public input is best.

Rich Cahoon said that if you don't approve or want to vote next week you vote no.

In favor of the plan: Jim Fredrickson, Dick Dunning, Janine Lesser, Tim Theberge, Jerry Wilson, Kevin Pobst, Rob Short, Jr., Niki McGettigan, Alan Edelkind, Stephen Ullman

Opposed: Linda Quintanilha

Plan is adopted.

c. Transportation

Kimberly Saunders said that upon reviewing policies, temporarily suspending the policy on use of private vehicles, as well as authorizing the Superintendent to make decisions about transportation due to health and safety of students is recommended.

Janine Lesser moved to temporarily suspend the provisions of policy EEAG prohibiting parents from transporting their children to and from extracurricular activities for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year, or such time as the Board votes to lift the suspension, whichever is the sooner, with the understanding that the balance of Policy EEAG shall remain in full force and effect.

Tim Theberge second.

Linda Quintanilha asked how much Primex is increasing costs and if we open up carpooling what is the impact.

Kimberly said that because we don't have a policy on the topic it provides a level of protection.

Rob Short, Jr. asked for a sense of what is being asked. Kimberly said that this would allow parents to transport their students back and forth to games or meets.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Janine Lesser moved to authorize the Superintendent and her designees to make such alterations and adjustments as she deems necessary to the School District's transportation services, in order to enhance the safety of students during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the authority to limit or suspend such transportation as cannot be safely provided under the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Tim Theberge second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

8. Technology Purchase Requisition Approvals (Board Vote Required) – Mark Schaub

Mark Schaub said that outdoor Public Address (P.A.) horns to cover where tent maps are to allow communication from schools to tents is the focus. One bid was received from Arcomm for \$74,721.00.

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the P.A. system request. Dick Dunning second.

Rob Short, Jr. said that hand-held two-way radios were approved; would it not be more efficient and cheaper than this request. If everyone in the field has a two-way radio why is this additional piece needed?

Mark Schaub said that the need to be able to do a reverse evacuation and heard by everyone at one time is one need.

Unanimous on roll call vote.

Managed Firewall Services – Mark Schaub said that this was discussed. The size has been changed. This service is erate eligible. We will be able to claim erate for this going forward. If we sign a multi-year agreement the cost could drop and we could receive erate. This amount reported is for one year.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the request. Stephen Ullman second.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Outdoor access points and switches – will allow outdoor rated equipment in tents for Wi-Fi at middle and high schools. Mosaic bid is recommended. The bid pricing is the same just recommending additional devices.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the request as presented. Linda Quintanilha second.

These could be reused district wide to provide Wi-Fi.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

9. Requisition Approvals (Board Vote Required) – Lori Schmidt

Lori Schmidt referenced a requisition list that added COVID dashboard all totaling \$34,000.

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the requisitions. Dick Dunning second.

Tim Theberge asked if the Dashboard, previously thought to be donated has a cost. The response was that this is the price after discount.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Rich Cahoon said that he will put a public comment agenda item for high school athletics so that the public can provide comment.

10. Public Comment

Wireless access points at the high school and around the district were asked about. Will they be available to families who do not have great access? Mark Schaub confirmed that yes, they would be in place to expand availability.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Personnel

c. Legal

None.

Linda Quintanilha motioned to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok