

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 27, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83032313579?pwd=OHp6WnZnNTVwOFNwdDRrZzBwTlFBUT09>

Password: y1fXBA
Telephone: 1 301 715 8592
ID: 830 3231 3579
Password: 674734

Minutes

Present: Karen Hatcher, Bob Marshall, John Robertson, Henry Kunhardt, Jeff Brown, Alan Edelkind, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, George Willard, Christine Robidoux (Temple Broadband Committee)

1. Call Meeting to Order

Karen Hatcher called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Accept Minutes of July 23, 2020

John Robertson moved to accept the minutes of July 23, 2020. Henry Kunhardt second. Unanimous.

3. School Re-Opening Update

Kimberly Saunders reported 20% remote, live stream grades 5-12, 85% of staff back in person, while accommodating remote work has been possible. Work will continue with the CVEA on Memorandums of Agreement in the areas of safety. Our plan meets or exceeds all of the safety issues. An agreement is expected next week.

Tents – fire chiefs were consulted before tents were put up. After last week's tent incident in New Ipswich, a five-page tent protocol was issued. We are making sure that all of our tents meet the requirements. The COVID monitoring team has been meeting and will be presenting to the School Board on Tuesday. It has been exciting to see people returning to school. Kimberly Saunders reported that she is working under a tent as well. She cannot ask staff to work in tents and ask parents to send their students to school in tents without her doing so as well.

John Robertson asked about PPE. Kimberly Saunders reported that we are in good shape for PPE. Our PPE runs from masks, face shields, full head to toe coverage, screening when you enter a building, and mandatory quarantine for those that travel outside of the New England area.

Karen Hatcher reported on a conversation she had with Ed Walker about the broader community taking precautions to protect kids and staff in places that they often carry on business. Ed Walker is going to visit local businesses in proximity of the schools to ask them to enforce the safety protocols necessary to keep everyone safe.

Kimberly Saunders said that staff are encouraged to come to school and stay at school until they leave. Students don't move from their classrooms, teachers move to them. This will allow a class, pod, or school to be shut down in the event of a positive case.

Jeff Brown asked how the tents are going to work out for students. What is the flow?

Kimberly Saunders said that at the elementary level, a classroom might be in a tent, P.E. might be in a tent. Some students are outside from the time they arrive until they leave at the end of the day. At the middle school, some classes will take place in tents i.e. P.E., music etc. At the high school, classes will take place indoors and others outdoors. Ventilation is the key. Classrooms that have no windows may occur in tents. Technology goes back and forth from the tent to the classroom daily. For younger students, they might spend time at a station or a desk. They might sit on mats in tents.

Jeff Brown further asked if we are prepared to remain in tents in inclement weather. Kimberly said that parents were sent an email about weather. There is a reverse evacuation measure in place for such weather-related events. The tents are in place for the possibility of rain. There is an incredible article in Time Magazine this week about why some places are doing this. It states that the evidence is clear that being outdoors significantly decreases the chances of not contracting the virus. Kimberly further suggested that any questions should be directed to principals and administrators.

Christine Robidoux asked from the broadband perspective, how this is being addressed. She understands that more and more families are requesting hot spots when they found their broadband not to be sufficient. Kimberly said that she was disappointed that no one in the Southwest District received grant dollars for broadband. We know that this continues to be a problem. Hot spots are available.

Karen Hatcher reported that she got onto the topic of school reopening with Jeanne Shaheen. Karen said that she described the work underway in the ConVal School District for reopening with her.

4. Discussion Re: SAC Membership

Karen Hatcher reported that she has resigned her position with the Peterborough Select board effective September 2nd because she also works for the Town of Peterborough. There was overlap. In addition, a request from Bennington came forward requesting that an appointee represent them. The wording of the Articles of Agreement state clearly that it must be a Select board member and not an appointee.

Kimberly Saunders said that the membership of SAC is outlined in the Articles of Agreement. It does not preclude people from attending a public meeting. Representation does have to be a Select board member.

Karen Hatcher said that she will talk to the Select board so that they will appoint a member.

John Robertson reported that he will be in limited capacity for a short period of time for personal matters. John suggested that one of the first orders of business at the next meeting is to select a Vice Chair. Karen asked if anyone present would be willing to step into the Vice Chair role. Jeff Brown agreed to serve in this capacity.

Bob Marshall moved to appoint Jeff Brown. George Willard second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Karen Hatcher wished everyone well moving forward.

5. Other

None.

6. Adjourn

Henry Kunhardt motioned to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Jeff Brown second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok