

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Tuesday, September 1, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

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

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87202853549?pwd=c21BUmxVOG1OdKZ3cGIJM0NlYzV0dz09>

Meeting ID: 872 0285 3549

Password: KQJK5N

Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US

Meeting ID: 872 0285 3549

Password: 059513

Minutes

BOARD

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

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Carrie James, H.R.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.

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. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II (If Required) – 6:30 -7:30 p.m.

Tim Theberge moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 6:33 for negotiations. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to exit non-public session at 7:34 p.m.

Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

3. Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration – 7:30 p.m.

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

Roll call attendance was taken.

Tim Theberge moved to authorize the Chairman of the School Board to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NEA and the School District with regard to technology and remote instruction. Dick Dunning second.

Tim Theberge asked if we could make sure that every agreement has a unique title and to also include page numbers. Jim Fredrickson said that his vote "for" acceptance of the Proposed MOA will be made with significant reservation concerning the provision that allows employees to "opt out" of having their likeness live streamed. The relationship between students and teachers is a personal one and not having the teacher's live image available during remote instruction is not in the best interest of the students.

Tim Theberge said that his intent is to move the MOA that provides supplemental support for upgrading access for bandwidth at homes if remote teaching.

In favor: Unanimous.

Tim Theberge moved to authorize the School Board Chairman to execute the MOA on the ConVal Sick Bank. Dick Dunning second.

Dick Dunning abstained.

In favor: All else in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

Tim Theberge moved to authorize to enter in Memorandum of Agreement on the District Re-Entry Plan related to the reopening document as it appears to be known.

Dick Dunning second.

Tim Theberge said that individual titles to these documents should be provided as well as page numbers. He suggested that it was noted that there were grammatical concerns in item 3 that do not change the purpose of the MOA but are needed.

Stephen Ullman said that an agreement that does not require teacher images to be on camera is a serious challenge to learners. He said that he sees this MOA as flawed.

Alan Edelkind sees this MOA as not taking into account the best interest of remote students and said that it is the wrong thing to do.

Jim Fredrickson said that his vote "for" acceptance of the proposed MOA will be made with significant reservation concerning the provision that allows employees to "opt out" of having their likeness live streamed.

The relationship between students and teachers is a personal one and not having the teacher's live image available during remote instruction is not in the best interest of the students.

In favor: Katherine Heck, Niki McGettigan, Tim Theberge, Kevin Pobst, Janine Lesser, Jim Fredrickson, Jerry Wilson

Opposed: Stephen Ullman, Alan Edelkind, Robert Short, Jr.

Dick Dunning abstained.

Motion Carried.

Tim Theberge moved to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the Indemnification Agreement that relates to the outdoor placement of tents at school facilities in Antrim.

Dick Dunning second.

In favor: Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to not implement payroll tax suspension.

Dick Dunning second.

Katherine Heck and Rob Short, Jr. shared concerns with the deferral and said that it is not in best interest of the district or employee.

In favor: Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for a period of five years.

Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

4. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. August 11, 2020

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020. Jerry Wilson second.

The minutes were amended to reflect Mark Schaub's name accurately and not Schmidt.

Unanimous.

5. Public Comment for Athletics

Kristin Larson, parent of two high school girls' soccer players, referenced a survey sent to parents of former players and incoming freshmen. Email provides specific results. It asks if a coach has been hired to run practices. It speaks about safety.

Ms. Larson said that cohorts should be allowed to practice together. The girl's team is small and should be allowed to practice together.

Alison Bell, Peterborough, said that she supports what Kristin Larson has presented. She encouraged the board to read the results of the survey.

Abby Theberge, Hancock, senior student, said that she is not on any athletic teams at ConVal, but asked consideration for the possibility for practices and games to occur to mix cohorts but asked that these students be remote. The reopening plan would be invalid if allowing to intermingle at a school sanctioned event.

Mary Kaye Lake said that she works with elderly and is in support of Kristin's plan. If there are no fall sports they will seek participation outside of the ConVal District and will spread the virus. She thanked the board for their consideration.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Governance Note

None.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

1) Nominations – District – 1-Year Position

- a. Ashley Goggin, Elementary School Counselor
- b. Kara Schoen, Elementary School Counselor

Carrie James shared the two nominations as listed.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the nominations as presented. Tim Theberge second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

9. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar (pg. 5-6)

Rich Cahoon asked if the next School Board meeting could be held under one of the tents. Stay tuned.

b. Presentation by COVID Monitoring Team

Suzanne Schoel, Pediatrician, and Ed Walker, Peterborough Fire, were present to share information from the COVID Monitoring Team.

The team was brought together to make hard and difficult decisions. Members are less involved with the school district and can make decisions looking in. They will be looking at trends in data locally and regionally. The team meets every day at 8:00 a.m. The team makeup was shared. The bulk of the conversation is made up of gaining thoughts of medical professionals.

Every day, we look at a variety of data. Cases by town are looked at. Cheshire, Hillsborough county are looked at. Merrimack County is also looked at because of where people are going home and back to work. Active cases in terms of increases and decreases are looked at as well as death rates. Monadnock Community Hospital data is looked at. How many students or staff have been quarantined in each building will be studied. Pod data will be monitored. How many students are sick will be reviewed? We will track illness of staff and students. Each day, data is compiled and the spreadsheet is updated. Trend graphs are updated and emailed to members of the team for review. Review occurs the following morning. Decisions for immediacy will be implemented as appropriate. Recommendations will come to the board. The District Dashboard will provide information that is used to make decisions.

In Peterborough, there have been between one and four cases as well as in Antrim. Trend graphs were shared. The dashboard will be available for everyone in the community, on the ConVal website, and will be updated daily.

The decision levers include trends of cases and in which direction. Where the cases are located i.e. long-term care facilities or in the community, and the risk of exposure for students and staff are considerations. Individual schools or towns will depict which phase they are in, what the instructional mode is, and what the CDC Recommendations are. It will provide pod names and status of that pod i.e. in school or remote.

Rich Cahoon thanked Dr. Schoel and Chief Walker for attending tonight.

Alan Edelkind asked how far behind the reporting and the acting exists. After the data is reported, how long does it take to be acted upon? The response was from the evening to the following morning.

Janine Lesser asked when the cases are in the community and not in the school, would a decision be made to close a school? Would it be considered a threat?

Dr. Schoel said that it depends on what the contact is. If there is no contact with kids, a school would not need to be closed. If there is contact, a pod or a school could be closed. It can be streamed where the risk is. If it is limited to one family or one pod, we can close a pod and quarantine.

Jim Fredrickson said that it is important that this info be made public so everyone knows the process. He asked if someone in the Town of Sharon were positive and go into quarantine, what is the lag time between someone being notified and it showing up in our data and into the system.

Ed Walker said that the State updates their website daily. If a new individual tests positive, it shows up on the State dashboard. It is 24 hours past when the positive result is reported to the State.

Rob Short, Jr. asked if the State tracks the percentage of tests that comes back with positive antibodies but not COVID positive.

Dr. Schoel said that she believes they do but it is unrelated to our tracking. Two people recently contracted COVID for the second time.

Stephen Ullman thanked Dr. Schoel, Chief Walker, and Dr. Saunders for the team, membership, methods of operation etc. He finds it reassuring in the number of data sources are consulted. He applauded the transparency. This is an impressive team.

Kimberly Saunders shared her excitement for the dashboard. This is a great one-stop place to go to see how things are going.

10. Reports

a. Teacher Representative – Greg Leonard

Greg Leonard said that educators are in the middle of professional development this week in preparation for students returning. Social emotional learning is a focus. In addition, staff are getting used to their new settings. It is a new experience that is exciting. Others are excited as well. There is some intrepidation as well. New technology training is underway to allow work in a synchronous classroom. Time to transition is needed to get used to the routine and get used to the bumps.

b. Policy Committee – Janine Lesser

Janine Lesser reported the Policy Committee has work going on at multiple levels; spring updates, Title IX, and DFA investment and policy implementation; and those policies that required review to make sure that they support the reopening plan. Several Saturday workdays or extra workdays will be scheduled to move policy work forward.

c. Selectmen’s Advisory Committee

Tim Theberge reported that Karen Hatcher resigned her position for Select board with the Town of Peterborough. It leaves positions open. Appointing a person or if a Select board member is required was discussed. Chair and Co-Chair to be determined.

11. Old Business

a. ConVal School District Reopening Update

Kimberly Saunders said that parents are getting updates from principals. Bus lists will soon be posted. Pod lists are out with the option to opt out of sharing information. We continue to get new registrations. We are looking at registrations very carefully. Some come with a request to attend a different school.

Ongoing tent inspections are taking place this week. Local fire departments are working with Mr. Grossi to get inspections done.

We are gearing up for students to be back. Everyone is thrilled that students will be back on campus.

We are working with 140 K-4 students who will learn remotely. Planning and preparation for this, K-4, has been underway.

Recently, media have asked to come see what is going on under the tents.

Katherine Heck asked if Dr. Saunders could let everyone know about the “Remote Elementary School” and the accommodations made for the home school.

Kimberly said that Amy Janoch will oversee the school and plan curriculum alongside Dr. Forrest. Amy Janoch will remain principal of HES with approximately 42 children in the school. She can balance the two pieces of work.

b. 2nd Read Policy Adoption (Board Vote Required)

JICD: Student Discipline and Due Process

Stephen Ullman moved to adopt Policy JICD.

Tim Theberge second.

Stephen Ullman asked under what circumstance the Superintendent would grant permission to carry a firearm under Item E, 2. Kimberly said that because expulsion comes from federal regulation, a student once brought an antique gun to school. Dr. Saunders said that she would never allow a student to bring a firearm to school.

How will suspensions occur with remote learning? Dr. Saunders said that should a student be suspended we would look for them to remote. It is prescribed in law that we are obligated to provide work and access to help with work during a student’s suspension.

Janine Lesser said that is part of the spring update as well. Main concern here is around masks and students who refuse to wear them.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

EBCE: School Closings

Stephen Ullman moved to adopt Policy EBCE.

Tim Theberge second.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

ECA: Buildings & Grounds Security

Stephen Ullman moved to adopt Policy ECA.

Tim Theberge second.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

12. New Business

a. Requisition Approvals (Board Vote Required)

Dick Dunning moved to approve the requisitions totaling \$62,570.95.

Katherine Heck second.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

b. Technology/Communication Purchases

Tabled.

13. Public Comment

None.

14. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests totaling \$315,554.13 and Payroll totaling \$1,733,916.13 have been reviewed by her and found to be proper charges against the Contoocook Valley School District for goods and/or services received and have been properly processed prior to their submittal to the School Board.

Dick Dunning motioned to approve the manifests as read.

Jim Fredrickson second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Personnel

c. Legal

None.

Tim Theberge motioned to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok