

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire**

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

**Thursday, October 22, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81635155468?pwd=M2JtT0pUYnc5VnMvb1VhWnlkVRZz09>

Password: 9zzj08

Telephone: 1 301 715 8592

ID: 816 3515 5468

Password: 452100

Agenda

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Accept Minutes of August 27, 2020**
- 3. Accept Minutes of September 24, 2020**
- 4. Tent Update**
- 5. More CAREs Money?**
- 6. Budget Impact**
- 7. November and December SAC Meeting Dates**
- 8. Other**

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106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK 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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86531024898?pwd=bzRtVXVZU3VFbkZoTjVyRGJaYlk0Zz09>

Password: uE2BVD

Telephone: 1 301 715 8592

ID: 865 3102 4898

Password: 174124

Minutes

Present: John Robertson, Henry Kunhardt, Jeff Brown, Bob Marshall, Carole Monroe, Diane Callahan, George Willard, Ed Juengst, Janine Lesser, Katherine Heck, Tim Theberge, Alan Edelkind, Stephen Ullman, Kimberly Saunders, Kristie LaPlante, Kate Fuller, Ed Walker, K. Vanderbilt

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Accept Minutes of August 27, 2020

Passed over.

3. School Reopening Opportunities and Challenges

Kimberly Saunders reported that K-4 students are back, as well as 5-6 at both middle schools, and 7-8 at GBS are back. Tent challenges exist to get students back. Ninth grade students have returned. Grades 10-12 are working remotely.

Challenges include simultaneous livestream teaching balanced with students present as well. Making sure that technology is working and working for students as well is a challenge. The tent issue is the one that is appropriately receiving the most administrative attention at this time.

ConVal is working with legal counsel, limiting conversation. The tent vendor was provided a letter to cure the problems that have arisen and we are waiting for him to complete that work. We have tents that are up but we are not able to use at this time because of issues with permitting. Tents have to be permitted with the towns and the fire marshal. We are looking specifically to Peterborough's Code Enforcement Officer for permitting. There is specific paperwork about the tents related to engineering specs for installation, weight ratings, wind shear ratings etc. that is needed. This is part of the problem, the need for proper paperwork.

Smaller tents do not have the same permitting process. We will stay in the tents as long as the weather works for us. It is likely that we will be outside again in the spring.

We are working with the Scott Lawson Group simultaneously. We have purchased ionization systems. The virus load inside is different than outside the building. Being outside is preferable. Once inside during colder months we want to make sure we have the proper intake/outtake of air.

Ed Juengst said that he recently heard a report about the dilemma that has occurred with the tents.

Stephen Ullman brought tent issues, both recent and years ago, that were safety issues that caused bodily harm or had the potential to as a reminder for the need of permitting.

Kimberly Saunders said that the Town of Peterborough own several tents and they will undergo the same scrutiny in the future in the inspection process. She said that the issue is getting the necessary documents to us so that we can go through the proper permitting process.

John Robertson asked about GOFERR Funds and what the background is there and how it can be dealt with in a reasonable manner.

Kimberly Saunders said that there is at least one town administrator present; she would like for them to speak and help the conversation. Kimberly said that the school district was taken off guard about the GOFERR Funds. We received CAREs dollars to the tune of \$157 per student. It was said that we would likely receive some FEMA dollars. It became apparent that FEMA would not allow districts to apply for FEMA dollars, but the Office of Homeland Security said that information for reimbursement should be sent to the towns. We received notice on a Friday at 4:44 p.m., with a Tuesday deadline. What they said was that each of the towns have this GOFERR funding that is invoiced for monthly. Things that exceed our regular costs, such as hand sanitizer, could be given to the towns to ask that they submit it for GOFERR funds. Some towns have not received much in GOFERR funding. It is not a clear way to divide up costs.

Kristie LaPlante, Town of Bennington, said that they received the request from the district on a Monday. The question was how do we get this to qualify. She spoke with Homeland Security. If ConVal were to invoice for equitable costs for Bennington, could they turn around and submit it in October? The response was that if the district incurred those costs prior to September 1st, they could not be submitted for. There is some back and forth. It is an odd set up with the State.

Kimberly Saunders said that some of our towns didn't even get \$40K. She has spent time speaking with the Commissioner of Education about this. The Governor and Commissioner are saying that there is plenty of money available. She has asked that they identify where so that she can apply.

Kimberly said that some students have gone to VLACS for their education choice. The State identified that adequacy funds would still be available to ConVal. The Governor sent \$7M of CAREs funding to VLACS; it equates to \$350 per student while we are receiving \$157. But, they don't have the costs that brick and mortar schools do, like hand sanitizer, cleaning costs, etc. Adequacy comes later and the State said that some of our costs could be covered by adequacy for students in VLACS.

Kimberly Saunders said that ConVal is working from a frozen budget. We are not going to deficit spend.

John Robertson said that towns are in the same boat.

Jeff Brown asked how we are accommodating students absent tents. Kimberly said that we are not able to accommodate students. Students are not in the buildings. We are racing to resolve the tent issue and at the same time have a Plan B and a Plan C. The HVAC system will allow students to be inside. The goal for the winter is to be inside and go back outside in the spring. We will adapt accordingly.

Kate Vanderbilt, Emergency Management Dublin, asked about GOFERR Funds. A letter from the State said that CAREs ESSER grants funds were available.

Kimberly said that \$326K was our portion of the \$33M. Those dollars have been accounted for and allocated; they were very early on. They don't consider them allocated until the grant is closed out. When the funds first came in the last fiscal year, we did a significant cost analysis. We knew that costs for reopening would exceed for the present predicament. We earmarked those dollars for opening costs; hand sanitizer, masks etc.

Bob Marshall said that in Greenfield, they are eligible for \$32K for GOFERR funds. He spoke about drawdowns and expenses that will not be reimbursed. Losses from Crotched Mountain are being calculated. We have lowered appropriations to keep the tax rate from spiking. He is sure each town has a story to tell.

Katherine Heck said that in March, FEMA released guidelines saying they would cover costs and then changed their guidance later. Homeland Security, FEMA, and the Governor are meeting next week. The towns have spent their money, or are in line to spend to reopen. She was told that new guidance might be available on GOFERR funds.

Kimberly said that the district has pushed back on the State and other offices. This use of GOFERR came out of left field and was unanticipated.

Kristie LaPlante asked if there is an estimated price tag for PPE and other items. Kimberly said that the costs equal about a million dollars. We froze the budget so we could move monies around. We have slated things to spend from capital accounts to allow us to manage within the budget.

Jeff Brown asked if the tents are part of the \$1M. Kimberly said that part of the \$1M is tents. We have been working to transfer dollars to cover expenses.

Where do we go from here? What do we do? The Governor's Guidelines on Friday will help provide a better picture. Given what the district was originally told, and then changed, we may have made different choices. Katherine Heck referenced an article that stated that Salem NH school district was at \$2.2M in reopening costs, Hudson at \$5.5M, and Manchester at \$11M in reopening costs.

Carole Monroe said that she assumed the CAREs funds have been allocated.

Kimberly spoke about CAREs money that went to private schools. The rate per student is very different. There are no remaining CAREs money to be allocated in NH to her knowledge.

Kristie LaPlante asked about \$4M released today for SPED. Kimberly said that it would not necessarily offset costs for reopening.

4. Budget Projections

How will the budget process be impacted in the coming year? Kimberly said that the process has just begun. We need to have an estimated understanding of what it could cost to "make up" for lost learning for students. We are diving into that now.

The budget will go before the board at the first Saturday in December.

5. Selectmen's Advisory Committee (SAC) Membership

John Robertson said that a Selectperson from Bennington is needed for participation. John said that he would be willing to go to a Select board meeting and promote it. Kristie LaPlante and John Robertson agreed to connect.

6. Other

Tim Theberge spoke about broadband. For some towns, it is not an issue. But for many who are trying to fill out the last mile, they were hoping for grants. EDA involves public ownership. If we were in a situation where we had zero broadband, it would be easier because it could be municipally owned. For towns with some coverage, it is more difficult. Tim is hoping to speak with the project manager in Sanford, ME who took on similar project. Carole Monroe and Tim Theberge will connect on broadband.

Jeff Brown asked if in person meetings are planned. John Robertson said that we will have to wait to see what the conditions are.

Ed Juengst said that when he agreed to be appointed to the Select Board in Peterborough, they assured him that Zoom would be an option for him. He hopes for consideration that there remains an option for Zoom meetings to continue for those that are at higher risk.

John Robertson thanked everyone for showing up and said to stay safe.

Jeff Brown motioned to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. George Willard second. Unanimous. K

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok