

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK 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=M2JtT0pUYnc5VnMvb1VkWnlckVRZz09>

Password: 9zzj08

Telephone: 1 301 715 8592

ID: 816 3515 5468

Password: 452100

Minutes

Present: John Robertson, Ed Juengst, Jeff Brown, Henry Kunhardt, Bob Marshall, Carole Monroe, Diane Callahan, George Willard, Kate Fuller, Tim Theberge, Janine Lesser, Alan Edelkind, Dr. Kimberly Saunders

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. Accept Minutes of August 27, 2020

Ed Juengst moved to accept the minutes of August 27, 2020. Henry Kunhardt second. Carole Monroe abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

3. Accept Minutes of September 24, 2020

Ed Juengst moved to accept the minutes of September 24, 2020. Henry Kunhardt second. Bob Marshall motioned to amend the minutes under agenda item three to replace "Bob Marshall said that in Greenfield, they are eligible for \$32K for GOFERR funds" with "Bob Marshall said that in Greenfield, they are eligible for \$42K for GOFERR funds".

4. Tent Update

Dr. Kimberly Saunders reported that ConVal has filed litigation to ask Monadnock Tent & Event (MTE) to return a certain amount of dollars based on a certain level of service. ConVal paid 50% of the contract up front and that service was not provided. We continue to work with our counsel. We have purchased tents that have been working for us. They allow us to continue the programming we intended. We have not been able to procure as many tents as we wanted. We work to have as many students outside as possible. Teachers are working hard to reimagine their space to provide education. We have been fortunate with the weather and hope it continues through November 24th.

Tim Theberge said that outdoor learning continues to get great reviews by teachers and students and those that have been able to use it.

Jeff Brown asked who owns the tents we are using. The response was that ConVal owns some of them. Jeff Brown further asked if ConVal staff installed them. Kimberly Saunders spoke about Tim Grossi, facilities, and the powerhouse crew he has put together with a variety of skills. Those present spoke about how they were impressed at the work done to make this all possible.

Jeff Brown said that his concern is on the inclement days when tents cannot be used. What happens? Is it an early release day, education inside?

Kimberly Saunders said that information is about to go out that share's information about the air exchange process and ionization that will filter the air and allow outside air to be exchanged with inside air at regular intervals that will allow a higher level for safety.

The Scott Lawson Group is conducting air particulate testing to see where we are. We won't be doing short days, we will be inside. Students and staff will not be in classrooms where the air exchange is not possible. Those areas are near nonexistent.

Jeff Brown asked if we are able to be inside safely, why do we have the tents. Kimberly said that we did not get the ionization systems early enough. It is about the viral load; the load dissipates at a quicker rate outside so tents are the preferred method barring weather.

Kimberly said that she hopes that we will be able to move inside by November 7th if everything goes accordingly.

5. More CAREs Money?

John Robertson asked about the recent announcement from the Governor about additional funding. Kimberly Saunders reported that the Governor is going to give \$200 more per student, which will work out to approximately \$500,000. One of the reasons he is doing this is because many schools were relying on FEMA dollars. Our FEMA reimbursement was expected to be \$1M. This will help. We have not heard how this money will be disbursed. Kimberly said that as she learns more, she will share information. The Governor gave the one Charter School \$350 per student. It assumes they had 20,000 students. Kimberly said that ConVal had to hire more staff in order to educate both remote and in person. The Charter did not have the PPE costs nor did they have to clean a school. The FEMA dollars were related to sanitization and PPE which brick and mortar schools have. Kimberly Saunders said that she is glad that we are getting the \$500K. Ultimately it is the taxpayers that will have to bear the cost.

6. Budget Impact

Kimberly Saunders said that we had our audit. The general fund unreserved balance is \$527K. The board is considering Executive Order #38 which would allow the district to use those dollars specifically for reopening and PPE costs. The board is meeting on Tuesday and this will be discussed.

Kate Fuller asked when ConVal might submit the MS 25 and DOE 25. Kimberly said that it will be going before the board on Tuesday and will be submitted by the 30th.

Carole Monroe said that she would like to understand how we spent dollars that we thought we were getting from FEMA absent paperwork. Kimberly said that we were being told that the dollars that we had to spend were taken from transfers. We did not deficit spend. We were told that we would be reimbursed for these dollars. It went through Homeland Security. The ionization systems would potentially have been a part of this. It was around September 14th that we received an email that said that we should reach out to towns to see if they could share GOFERR dollars. The deadline was only days from that email. We have dollars that have been expended and we have to take from other parts of the budget or trust funds. If we have to rely solely on our budget, we will have to decrease our programming in order to make that happen. School districts don't have the capacity to borrow money or go out for a TAN.

Kimberly said that a string of emails from Homeland Security identifying that money in the queue to aid schools. It happened to other institutions as well.

Kimberly further said that there was not an application but there was every indication that those dollars were coming.

Tim Theberge said that marching orders were being followed and then the decision was changed at the last moment.

Kimberly said that we didn't move thinking that we might get FEMA dollars, we would have spent those dollars anyway on PPE and hand sanitizer.

The budget work has begun for 2021/2022. We anticipate that we will likely have all of our current configurations needing to follow through into next year. We could have another school year where we have to continue this level of mitigation strategy to have in person learning. We are looking at what needs to change in our budget to be able to continue as we are now.

Ed Juengst said that is wise planning, he is of the belief that the problem is not disappearing.

John Robertson said that Selectmen are preparing in the towns as well. The more information coming forward from the schools is helpful.

Ed Juengst spoke about lost revenue from restaurants and other areas. The State has been passing more and more to the towns.

Kimberly Saunders said that the MS 25 and DOE 25 will be submitted by October 30th. Towns have work to do with it after that. Kimberly said that she can have Lori Schmidt, Business Administrator, send out an email to all of the towns when she submits it. This year is later than usual. Our audit has a window and there are two audit firms in the State capable of auditing school districts; therein lies the problem. She said that she hopes to move up in the audit schedule in future years. Submitted forms can be seen by the towns and schools on the DRA site.

7. November and December SAC Meeting Dates

John Robertson asked when the committee would like to meet in November and December given the holidays.

Kimberly said that the first iteration of the budget will not be to the School Board until the fifth of December.

John Robertson suggested skipping meeting in November and meeting next in December.

December 17th was agreed upon and skipping November.

Henry said that Jim Cleary will be the Bennington representative for SAC and Kristie LaPlante will try to gather information when she can. It is a public meeting so anyone can attend but the membership of the committee states that it will be a Selectperson.

8. Other

None.

Henry Kunhardt motioned to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Carole Monroe second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok