

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Rd.
Peterborough, New Hampshire**

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

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

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81301860553?pwd=Y0plQnBOak5kOE1RMS9lSUIYUTBOZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 0186 0553

Password: MJD5Ba

Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US

Meeting ID: 813 0186 0553

Password: 474574

MINUTES

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning,
Alan Edelkind, Jim Fredrickson,
Katherine Heck, Janine Lesser,
Kevin Pobst, Robert Short, Jr.,
Tim Theberge (7:31 pm), Stephen Ullman,
Jerome Wilson

Greg Leonard, CVEA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Rich Cahoon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration

Rich Cahoon read the "*Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration*" as a result of a quorum of the board not physically present.

3. Non-Public Session: RSA 910A:3,II (6:30 pm – 7:15 pm)

Stephen Ullman moved to enter into non-public session at 6:33 p.m. for legal matters. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning moved to exit non-public session at 7:20 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous on roll call vote.

Dick Dunning moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for a period of five years for legal and also personnel. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

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

a. September 15, 2020

Stephen Ullman moved to accept the minutes of September 15, 2020. Dick Dunning second. Janine Lesser abstained. All others in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

b. September 22, 2020

Jim Fredrickson motioned to accept the minutes of September 22, 2020. Dick Dunning second.

Katherine Heck amended the minutes to include that the purchase recommendation for technology included 100 Chromebook charging stations from FireFly at a cost of \$325.00 each for \$32,500.00 total and also for 30 replacement Lenovo laptops at a cost of \$929.00 each for a total of up to \$28,429.80.

Discussion took place about the original motions not having included that information but rather a more overarching motion. Katherine Heck requested that in future motions, that amounts be stated.

ADMINISTRATION

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

5. Points of Pride

Kimberly Saunders reported that Mary Reagan Riffle has been named a Commended Student in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship. 34,000 Commended Students are placed among the top 50,000 scores of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition.

Kimberly Saunders reported that we are now fully implementing our reopening plan. She said that there is an incredible effort on behalf of the teaching staff, administration, and employees of ConVal School District. Teachers are teaching in ways and in places they could never have imagined. Not every district is having the same type of experience with our teachers that we are. Our staff is wonderful and working hard to provide as much normalcy as possible.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Personnel

- 1) Retirements – November 2020
 - a. Brianne Bastarache, Title 1 Teacher
- 2) Retirements – June 2021
 - a. Vicki McCloskey, School Psychologist
- 3) Retirements – June 2022
 - a. Sandy Aborn, GES, Gr. 2 Teacher
 - b. John Szep, PES, Physical Education Teacher

Dick Dunning moved to accept the retirements as listed. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

8. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Negotiations will meet on October 7th. School Board will meet for a remote only meeting on October 27th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss athletics.

b. October 1, 2020 Enrollment Update

Kimberly Saunders said that enrollment numbers continue to move. An updated document will be issued because of the in's and outs of in person and remote learners.

Rich Cahoon said that the numbers are remarkable compared to what other districts are seeing. It is a testament to the employees and the faith the communities have in them. The impact on adequacy will be known by early November.

c. ConVal School District Reopening Update & Local COVID Data Update

Kimberly Saunders shared present COVID data. We continue to have strong data both locally and regionally. We do have one case in Antrim. Because the state uses a range of 1-4, we agreed to use the higher number; so, 4 is placed. There are 500 active cases in the state with 20 hospitalized. We continue to have small numbers in our area with no hospitalizations. Students in our schools who are quarantining are low. Absentee numbers are in par with what they typically are at this time of year. Our data looks really good. Very few staff have been out sick this year. Kimberly said that a reminder will be sent out from the Monitoring Team reminding that our numbers look great, but that we need to stay vigilant. We are fully implementing our reopening plan.

Feedback on how technology is working?

Rich Cahoon asked that awards for student perfect attendance not be given this year; it sends the wrong message. Confirmed.

d. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required) (pg. 10)

- 1) Francestown Elementary School requests authorization to accept from: Francestown Conservation Commission, the gift/donation of \$500.00 for the purpose of supporting work on pollinator gardens with Cornucopia help.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the donation as listed. Janine Lesser second with gratitude. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

9. Reports

a. Teacher Representative – Greg Leonard

Greg Leonard said that we have students and teachers under tents each day. It is nice to see how colleagues are working with kids. The technology piece has had glitches along the way. For the most part, there were no glitches out on the athletic fields teaching. The announcements can be heard when broadcasting from the school. The middle schools are experiencing some tech issues as he understands it.

When working with both in person and remote students, it takes a bit to fit the two pieces together. Greg said that it was amazing to have students in front of him today. Students received headphones with microphones which allowed discussion and they could hear each other. Greg also reported that teachers are doing amazing work and are working very hard. It is for the best interest of students. He said that he believes students appreciate it and he feels that teachers feel the same.

b. Education Committee – Niki McGettigan

Jerry Wilson said that focus areas for meeting agendas was the intent. Action steps from the Strategic Plan and looking at deadlines was a focus. The curriculum renewal cycle was a consideration. New pilot programs will hold off until we get through the current school year.

Ann Forrest added that the review cycle of digital resources and getting the system into place was discussed as a focus as well.

c. Equity Committee – Linda Quintanilha

Rich Cahoon reported that the Equity Committee decided to put a hold on pilots.

Ann Forrest said that middle school was discussed and will return to a conversation on the middle school schedule at the next meeting.

d. Selectmen's Advisory Committee- Tim Theberge

Tim Theberge said that the meeting focused on reopening procedures. Discussion on GOFERR funds took place in terms of where the towns were at with them. FEMA's change of policy on PPE was discussed as well.

Tim Theberge asked if there is any consideration about adjusting the 5 minutes between classes at the high school to determine if it is sufficient for students to potentially travel from one end of campus to another. Is there enough time for transition? Kimberly Saunders reminded that we are in day two and that time for administration to review is needed.

10. Old Business

a. Athletics Proposal from ConVal High School

John Reitnauer reported that last week, the decision was made for a reevaluation date of September 25th to resume athletic competition. The recommendation not to do that because students would be sent off campus and returning for academic classes was made. Mr. Reitnauer said that we, as an athletic department, are looking to shut skills and drills down on October 22nd. It will give each cohort an equal amount of time with coaches and teammates.

John Reitnauer said that a decision on winter was going to be made on October 6th. But, no guidance has been given from the NHIAA. He has not heard back from Winchendon about ice time but he has heard back from Keene that they are able to accommodate if we are going to play hockey. Scheduling meetings are coming on Thursday. A plan for restarting winter events will be needed. The NHIAA may push start dates from November 30th to later in the school year. A decision on winter sports is asked for on October 26th.

Rich Cahoon asked about skiing. John Reitnauer said that if a decision was made on October 6th, that would have been the decision. However, we are allowing students to leave to compete and return to classes. The decision was made not to go forward as a result with fall sports because it could jeopardize the cohort system in place.

Rich Cahoon said that it is the possibility that students who compete in athletic competition that they be required to participate in classes remotely.

John Reitnauer said that is the only way that would allow students to compete, to educate remotely until their last competition date and quarantine period before being allowed back live.

Rich Cahoon said that a recommendation to return or not return to competition by risk level will be asked on October 26th. Students, if allowed to compete, would remote for education. Rich clarified that there is no option to compete and return to school in person. Confirmed.

Kevin Pobst said that he suspects that if skiing were allowed that students could be placed in the same cohort. John Reitnauer said that he sees that as an equity issue.

Rich Cahoon said that he sees this as an issue for other parents who would question why this sport and not others.

Kimberly Saunders said that we did look at the cohort piece to consider team-based cohorts. When we looked at it, it caused significant concerns around equity. It was examined.

Stephen Ullman asked that if it is presently recommended that low risk sports compete, would it mean that there were a gold alpine team and a gold alpine team. John Reitnauer confirmed that whatever cohort were in school in a given week would be the one to compete.

Katherine Heck asked if Alpine and Nordic were to compete as blue and gold that they would have to remain remote during their season. John said that depending what cohort they were in, they would be competing against students from other districts. Katherine asked if they are going from the mountain to home, why would we separate them if they had to stay remote. John said that the majority will stay remote, we could race them as one team.

Katherine asked if the other sports, to the extent possible, could not compete, would they be allowed to have skills and drills. John said that would be his hope. But, being indoors during that time of year is of concern for lack of air flow. He would have to look at that very very hard.

Katherine Heck further asked if we could do something like an "if/then statement" about going remote or a family decision. When we come to a vote, if/then statements would be helpful. It might not be completely clear to families. Keeping schools open is most important. The decision made should allow families time to think it through. John said that he could rework the language.

Katherine Heck said that it is a full board decision and she appreciates the effort to give students an athletic experience but keeping students in schools is most important.

Rob Short, Jr. agreed and said that he would like to see students go to competition and that they be required to go remote for education. It is important to an athlete.

Rich Cahoon said that this decision will be delayed until October 26th. Sense of the board was confirmed.

b. Communication Addressing MLT and Sentinel Reporting Inaccuracies on FEMA Funding

Rich Cahoon said that whenever there is correspondence going out to Select boards, from now on, we will copy the School Board reps for that town on that correspondence so that they will know what is going on.

Kimberly Saunders said that we can combine the initial COVID cost article that we were writing with helping people understand those costs and what we were planning on getting from FEMA along with what we will have to use in the general fund. Rather than just say that the article was significantly inaccurate, it could clarify that we are not going town to town asking for money to the tune of \$3M.

Janine Lesser asked if the Communication Committee should work on this or Guilfoil. Kimberly Saunders said that it would be helpful for the Communication Committee to start.

Rich Cahoon said that it would be good to put Jim Fredrickson's document on our website because of its complexity. He encouraged the Communication Committee to refer people to our website.

Rich said that local media are understaffed and under pressure and it would be good to provide them with the detail of complex issues.

11. New Business

a. NHSBA Resolutions 2021 (Board Vote Required)

Katherine Heck shared a resolution she wrote for COVID funding to be reimbursed by the State for remote and in person models. Adequacy is already too low. Receiving \$157 per child is inadequate. The State should address the needs to reopen schools safely while adhering to State and Federal guidelines.

Rich Cahoon said that he thought it was very well done. Typically, we would vote to put this forward. Board members will receive a packet of other resolutions from other districts to vote on. Tim Theberge will also have another resolution.

Dick Dunning moved to bring Katherine's resolution forward. Second.

Janine Lesser said that she worried that this goes on for three years.

Katherine said that she believes the COVID impact will affect future budgets and how districts will move forward. We will continue to have COVID affect. It is something to consider.

Tim Theberge said that some of this is about messaging. Even if the timing is off, it is worth sending the message.

Rich Cahoon said that these resolutions are guidance on the focus.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge said that he sent a resolution out that deals with the last mile broadband. It is an issue he has been working on. There are issues with broadband. This specifically sends the message that NH did well with remote but it is an equity for those underserved. This is an attempt to make it clear that there is value to remote learning and it worked well for many students. This may continue to be an ask during non-pandemic times. The need to access curriculum will be part of what education looks like. Without access, it is a problem. It is about building to the future needs.

Rich Cahoon said that a vote could be taken at the next board meeting.

Stephen Ullman noted the budget line item for hotspots to connect students.

Rich Cahoon returned to the agenda item on approval of minutes. He said that Brenda's responsibility and job is to record motions as made. Rather than ask her to extract numbers from documents, we should try to make our motions including the words that we want to see in the minutes. With that in mind, the motion on requisitions should be made considering this.

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

Lori Schmidt reported the need for an additional nurse in one of our schools. We have an obligation to provide suicide prevention; NAMI will provide training. Quadiant includes postage leases and ongoing contracts. We had not renewed a software tool used in classrooms, BrainPop, which is reflected in the requisition requests.

Katherine Heck moved to accept the requisition requests in the amount of \$35,434.27. Dick Dunning second.

Rob Short asked if additional columns to reflect if this was initially budgeted and what the budget line item is could be added.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

c. Expenditure and Encumbrance Report - Lori Schmidt

Lori Schmidt said that she will provide this report for each meeting with a cutoff date of the Thursday prior to meeting. Lori said \$4.4M has been unencumbered. \$1.1M is associated with temporary salaries, which include substitutes, athletic, co-curricular stipends, and summer curriculum work. We don't know what is happening with these topics. As a result, we really have \$3M unencumbered.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the Encumbrance Report and the encumbrances therein as presented. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

12. Public Comment

Kristin Proctor asked about the remainder of fall sports; specifically, golf. She asked if two golfers could go to tournament. It is outside, following social distancing. Parents take students to events so there is no mixing of cohorts. The deadline to register is October 8th at 3:00 p.m.

Rich Cahoon said that procedurally, this is difficult, because the board does not respond to public comment because that is not how it works. Rich further said that we have to post agenda items and vote on them as they come up. He said that the board will ask the Superintendent to confer with the Athletic Director to deal with this question. Confirmed.

Hunter asked if there is a way to ask our Athletic Director if we can do the same to salvage a soccer season this year. Rich Cahoon said that the purpose of this is public comment rather than question and answer procedurally. The board has voted not to move forward with athletic competition.

Celeste Lunetta spoke in support of bringing kids back out to participate in sports.

13. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests listed totaling \$258,088.34 and Payroll totaling \$1,897,023.79 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 moved to approve the manifests as read. Jim Fredrickson second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

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

None.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

Amended and approved at the November 3, 2020 School Board meeting.