

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Tuesday, October 27, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85332755063?pwd=RUxrTDJOQ0dVYIN5UTZZMGM0ZzJKZz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3275 5063
Password: zyL21F
Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US
Meeting ID: 853 3275 5063
Password: 986706

MINUTES

BOARD

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

Greg Leonard, CVEA

ADMINISTRATION

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Rich Cahoon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration

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

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

a. Negotiations

Tim Theberge moved to enter into non-public session at 6:35 for matters of legal and negotiations.

Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to exit non-public session at 7:13 p.m. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for matters of negotiations and legal for a period of five (5) years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved that the Board ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Stephen Ullman Second. Dick Dunning abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment

Matt Craig, Sharon, urged the board to consider the additional risk of contracting COVID with contact in winter sports. He urged the board to be adults and reduce risk rather than increase risk through sports. He said that the seriousness of this pandemic must be considered.

Kevin Proctor, referenced an email that he sent to the board this weekend. He said that he is in full support of the winter sports proposal for several reasons. The value of sports and extracurricular activities is important. Students are told to get involved and join clubs and sports to be part of a community. Sports and extracurricular activities allow

students access to buildings and ownership. Competition teaches many things to young athletes. Lessons learned transcend into the classroom.

At the conclusion of the two-minute period for individuals to make public comment, consideration to allow Mr. Proctor additional time was made.

Robert Short, Jr. moved to allow one (1) additional minute for Mr. Proctor to continue. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Kevin Proctor said that the proposal allows parents to make a decision for their student to participate in sports. We will remote already and will be quarantined by January 11th. Knowing this, if parents know that remote will be required, parents will make their decision.

Brady Proctor, Antrim, said that he is the only athlete to participate in a fall sport this year. It is his senior year and it was so important. The board has the opportunity to give every winter athlete the same opportunity. He said that mental health is important when looking at the safety and success of students at ConVal. This might provide an outlet for students where they might not otherwise have one. COVID guidelines are not being asked to violate but simply to follow the NHIAA guidelines.

5. ConVal High School Athletics

Rich Cahoon referenced a copy of the plan included in tonight's packet. He said that there are multiple options.

Rich said that we will take a motion to accept the recommendation and a second and then discuss. A vote will occur.

Katherine Heck moved to adopt the administration recommendation on high school athletics. Alan Edelkind second.

John Reitnauer said that the proposal is that ConVal would move forward with any winter athletic programs that the NHIAA approves to run. Following dates set up by the Executive Council last Friday, we would begin on November 30th with a skills and drills period that would run through December 11th. Team practices would begin December 14th. The first date of competition would be January 11th. During remote time, we would have cohorts combined to form teams. A Regional Schedule would be built; it would be shortened; playing teams within a one-hour drive. Athletes who participate would stay remote once we return to in person on January 19th through their final competition and an additional 14 days to allow one to quarantine.

Risk levels – basketball – moved into the moderate level with ice hockey. Wrestling is high level risk. Others are low risk. Indoor track is also moderate level.

Heather McKillop said that if, at a time, our district moved to red category, there would not be any sports playing. The COVID Monitoring Team meets and compares data daily. If there were trends that indicated it was not safe to go forward, that information would inform decision making. Health and safety have to be the priority for all.

Tim Theberge asked since wrestling is the only high-risk sport, could we just drop that sport off and then moderate, and then low, or is this an all or nothing.

John Reitnauer said that if that is the recommendation of the board, we could go in that direction and run skills and drills only.

Rich Cahoon asked John Reitnauer his recommendation. John Reitnauer said that it will have a lot to do with where we are in relation to COVID cases in our area. He does have a concern about wrestling.

Alan Edelkind asked if with option one, is it all or nothing, or is it still based on risk level? Could lower levels still play if high risk was deemed not able to play?

John Reitnauer said that wrestling and ice hockey are higher risk. He would think that high risk activity would be looked at and reevaluated after hearing from the NHIAA.

Alan Edelkind asked if the recommendation could be modified to say that winter sports that are determined to be eligible would continue to play. Only those sports deemed safe to play would be played. John Reitnauer agreed.

Kevin Pobst said that we could amend the motion to read that we will go along with the NHIAA and COVID monitoring team.

Dr. Saunders said that the COVID Monitoring Team looks at data across the state and within district. Student absenteeism and illness is looked at. A Red Level designation would be a clearing of buildings and sending everyone home. If the COVID Monitoring Team should look specifically at sports, it is a different direction for them. She said that John Reitnauer sits on the monitoring team.

Rich Cahoon said that the role of the board is to set the outer limit.

Heather McKillop said that part of the plan is that parents would sign a waiver.

Katherine Heck said that some winter sports are played off campus at other facilities. If those facilities become unavailable, that would determine the future of certain sports.

Kimberly Saunders said that there are no indoor track venues available. Ice rinks are closed until Sunday. We began conversations with Keene Ice knowing that prep schools might not allow others to use their ice.

John Reitnauer said that Hampshire Dome in Milford has an indoor track that can be used. UNH and others are not opening their indoor tracks.

Rich Cahoon said that some others have made the requirement that students cannot participate in outside competition.

Linda Quintanilha said that requirement would be a must. What is the accountability and how will it be enforced?

Tim Theberge said that those that play in a club sport forfeit their ability to compete in ConVal sports.

John Reitnauer said that language could easily be added to the draft.

Kevin Pobst said that he is uncomfortable with that as a policy as a blanket statement. There are lots of competition that skiers participate in across the season.

Rich Cahoon said that another action will be needed on spectators.

Kevin Pobst amended that motion not to include high risk sports and only include moderate and low sports. Stephen Ullman second.

The amended motion would read to adopt the recommendation of administration with interscholastic participation in only level 1 and 2 sports.

Katherine Heck asked if we are eliminating skills and drills for that group or only competitive play.

Kevin Pobst said that the intention is interscholastic competition.

Stephen Ullman said that he sees dangers in wrestling practice.

Kevin Pobst said that he does not see how wrestling could move forward safely.

Linda Quintanilha said that we have got to a place where this is not our gig. We all have opinions. We have people running around without masks. This should be left to administration.

Heather McKillop asked of the possibility that a sport move from one tier to another. If that occurs, that would have to be followed.

Stephen Ullman said that there may be promotion or demotion from one level to another. Broad language means that this applies to low and moderate activities.

Heather McKillop said that if a sport were to move from moderate to high, that we would follow.

Kimberly Saunders said that the board asked for a proposal.

Kevin Pobst withdrew his motion to amend.

Alan Edelkind agreed that it should be an administrative decision. We could leave it open ended to include the winter sports that are eligible. "Sports that are determined to be eligible by administration" might be the words used.

Stephen Ullman withdrew his second.

Rich Cahoon noted language about a 14-day quarantine requirement after sport competition ends.

Tim Theberge said that the District should adopt the requirement that athletes will not participate in club sports.

Stephen Ullman said that original language conveys to families the seriousness of this. Not only athletes, but siblings of athletes must go remote beyond a 14-day quarantine.

Kimberly Saunders said that it is household members and not just siblings; not everyone lives with their siblings.

Katherine Heck said that in March, our basketball team was headed into an important game. During that week, we went from having fans, to no fans, to cancelling completely. She said that she feels that administration will make the right decisions.

Adopting the administration recommendation is the vote on the table.

Tim Theberge moved to amend the administration recommendation to add the requirement that student athletes that seek to play under the ConVal Proposal will not participate in club sports. Dick Dunning second.

Discussion on amendment:

Kevin Pobst said that he would like to see it apply sport by sport as the administration sees fit.

Tim Theberge said that his intent is for students not to participate in sports outside of ConVal.

Linda Quintanilha moved to amend to include the words "high risk" in front of "club" and that exceptions may be made at the discretion of administration.

Tim Theberge and Dick Dunning accepted the change to their motion and second.

It leaves us with you cannot participate in club sports.

Tim Theberge said that he would be comfortable with moderate and high risk. Tim further said that students are required to agree that they will not to participate in moderate or high-risk sports.

Heather McKillop asked how that would be monitored with fidelity. John Reitnauer said that he was unsure how that would be monitored as well. We would have to trust that people would do the right thing.

Rich Cahoon said that you will know when there is contact tracing. If a waiver said that you are agreeing not to do this, it is an accountability issue.

Linda Quintanilha said that once administration kicks a kid off a basketball team we (the board) will have to have administration's back.

Roll Call to amend the Motion to adopt the recommendation of administration as presented with the exception that interscholastic competition of high and medium risk sports would require no competition of club sports except at the discretion of administration.

In favor: Jim Fredrickson, Dick Dunning, Janine Lesser, Jerry Wilson, Stephen Ullman, Tim Theberge, Alan Edelkind, Robert Short, Jr. , Kevin Pobst, Linda Quintanilha

Opposed: Katherine Heck

Motion carried.

The motion now on the floor is:

To adopt the recommendation of administration as presented with the exception that interscholastic competition of high and medium risk sports would require no competition of club sports except at the discretion of administration.

In favor: Jim Fredrickson, Dick Dunning, Janine Lesser, Jerry Wilson, Stephen Ullman, Tim Theberge, Robert Short, Jr. , Kevin Pobst, Katherine Heck

Abstained: Linda Quintanilha

Opposed: Alan Edelkind

The Recommendation is adopted as presented.

6. Retention of Fund Balance for COVID-19 related expenditures per Emergency Order #38 (Board Vote Required)

Executive Order 38 allows us to retain our unreserved fund balance through a properly noticed meeting. We anticipated receiving \$1M in FEMA funding. That money is not going to be coming. Additional CAREs dollars were awarded to the district to just under \$500K. It leaves us a little shy in the dollars that we need to make up.

The recommendation is to deduct the initial \$250K anticipated fund balance and retain the remaining amount.

James Fredrickson moved that pursuant to the State of New Hampshire Governor's Emergency Order #38, the Superintendent is directed to prepare a letter to be signed by the entire Board for submittal to NH Department of Education seeking approval to make emergency expenditures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in the amount of \$320,836.58 utilizing a portion of the District's Unassigned Fund Balance.

Total current Unassigned Fund Balance:	\$570,836.58
Amount to be retained for COVID-19 expenditures:	\$320,836.58
Amount remaining for Unreserved Fund Balance:	\$250,000.00

Katherine Heck second.

Katherine Heck shared her appreciation for the effort to preserve and recoup. We have met our commitment we made to towns

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

7. MS 25 and DOE 25

Lori Schmidt said that she believed the reports would need to be amended based on the vote just taken. It is actually the MS 24 that would address action just taken. The MS 25 and DOE 25 need to be submitted as presented last week. Need signatures by end of day Wednesday.

8. Public Comment

None.

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

None.

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Robert Short, Jr. second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok