

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Strategic Plan Committee

**Thursday, January 14, 2021
5:00 p.m.**

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82906080402?pwd=Q1RINERJbTJISHBFbUhraDh0K1VGZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 0608 0402

Passcode: GD8Cna

Telephone: 1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 829 0608 0402

Passcode: 664067

MINUTES

School Board Committee Members:

Tim Theberge – Chairperson

Alan Edelkind

Katherine Heck

Niki McGettigan

Kevin Pobst

Robert Short, Jr.

Present: Tim Theberge, Alan Edelkind, Katherine Heck, Kevin Pobst, Robert Short, Jr., Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Dr. Ann Forrest, Jerry Wilson, Janine Lesser, Heather McKillop, Amy Janoch, Kat Foecking, Colleen Roy, Larry Pimental

1. Call to Order

Tim Theberge called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2020

Katherine Heck moved to approve the minutes of December 10, 2020. Alan Edelkind second. Kevin Pobst abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2020

Katherine Heck moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2020. Robert Short, Jr. second. Unanimous.

4. Review of Current Draft

(Agenda items 4 and 5 were flipped so that discussion on 5 occurred first)

Guiding Beliefs were shared.

Contoocook Valley School District Framework for Moving beyond COVID-19 was reviewed and amended.

How long does a Governance Group remain? Does it fade out after recovery or remain?

Katherine Heck said that challenges exist with a bridge between a traditional Strategic Plan and what is being experienced now. At some point, the work of restarting will have to be taken on. A traditional Strategic Plan will have to be developed. The new idea, coupled with the history and the knowledge of the past will be valuable.

Kevin Pobst said that he thought that the two groups should work together as long as possible.

Katherine Heck exited at 5:30 p.m.

Kimberly Saunders asked what the timeline was for the plan. She said that a five-year “hold” between the last plan and this one was implemented. She was unsure how much more, given the circumstances, administration can take on. Our concentration on facility and structure over the past five years was great.

Robert Short said that we see where budgets aren’t sustainable and this is the beginning point. It is something that has to be built; it will be a multi-year process. As part of our resiliency as a district, this has to get forward motion.

Jerry Wilson said that this is an area that has been troubling the district for many years.

Alan Edelkind agreed that the School Board members should not be in charge of any of the subcommittees but he questioned why they couldn’t be active members on the committee.

Kevin Pobst said that the type of inquiry he would like to do is with heavy community engagement. Maldistribution of resources, inequity, unsustainable finances, small towns are reluctant to give up schools etc. What are the choices here? Let’s face those choices. It should not be dumped to administration to develop proposals. He said that he understands that a moratorium is in place to look at this again, but work should continue with community engagement. The first step would be to come up with a plan. The Strategic Plan Committee should work on this alone.

Kimberly Saunders agreed that the current school structure is not sustainable. There is no way that this work cannot be put on administration. If the Board does not have the will to push this through to a warrant article then this work should not occur.

Kevin Pobst agreed. He said that the towns of the elementary schools should work on this. He shared the voting percentages from 2013 on this topic. The percentage in favor was over 50%; not 67% but a majority. It even passed in Hancock and Frankestown.

Dr. Ann Forrest said that it is important to recognize that minutes, hours, months, and years have allowed the eye to be taken off the ball. It is time that is not being applied in classrooms. It is a burden on administration. In the past, damage is done in schools and communities during the time this work is done. It is not a good environment.

Tim Theberge said that there must be a way that the board can own this.

Kimberly Saunders said that before this is put into a plan, the board should review the history. A community engagement piece to learn what families want for their schools and what they should look like is important to gather.

Kevin Pobst said that the Strategic Plan Committee members of the board could look at the history as a starting point. In the past, voters have voted in favor of inefficiency and budgets passed. Now might be the time.

Alan Edelkind said that the appetite of the voters for change is greater now because of what is happening with the budget. This is a viable option to decrease the amount of budget responsibility that we have.

Robert Short said that the amount of maintenance that is coming up is into the tens of millions. If that type of money needs to be put into infrastructure, we need to think about it now.

5. Community Invites

Tim Theberge shared a copy of the invitation to participate in the Development of the ConVal Strategic Plan for community members. It is a commitment for no less than five months. The group could be the same for both Recovery and Resiliency or, it can be adapted to meet the needs by adding if needed.

Katherine Heck said that earlier in the process, various groups were identified. She said that she would like to see one or two unreserved positions to be sure that this plan has an authentic voice from and for the underserved.

Alan Edelkind suggested that the letter should come from Tim Theberge and co-authored by Kimberly to reflect the joint effort.

Tim said that representatives from Temple and Sharon still need identification. Suggestions are welcome. Colleen Roy offered a prospective name for Temple. Kimberly suggested several people from Sharon.

Tim said that the group that hasn't been added are employees of the district.

Members were suggested from the larger companies in the area; NHBB, and Monadnock Paper.

6. Staff Assignments

Kimberly said that she will take care of staff assignments.

7. Other

Tim Theberge said that he will reformat the invite list and narrow it down. Kimberly will look at the draft invite. Tim will modify it for opening to post to the website.

8. Non-Public Session (if needed)

None.

Tim Theberge adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok