

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

**Thursday, January 28, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86723185241?pwd=UWxEMHJuVWVseHhwQmFsOCtqaDNYQT09>

Passcode: sE2GRn

Telephone: 1 301 715 8592

ID: 867 2318 5241

Passcode: 266850

Agenda

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Accept Minutes of October 22, 2020**
- 3. School Program - Where are we going?**
- 4. ConVal Warrant**
- 5. COVID-19 Update**
- 6. Other**

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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=M2JtT0pUYnc5VnMvbIVkWnlckVRZz09>

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 baring 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

WARRANT

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the Inhabitants of the Contoocook Valley School District consisting of the Towns of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at **ConVal High School** at 184 Hancock Rd., (Route 202 North) in Peterborough on the **second day of February, 2021**, next at **6 o'clock in the evening** for the first session of the Annual School District Meeting (snow date: third day of February next at 6 o'clock in the evening), to deliberate upon the warrant articles listed below. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended; (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended; and, (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this provision.

You are further notified to meet at the following places in the Town of your residence:

Antrim	Antrim Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Bennington	Pierce Elementary School	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Dublin	Dublin Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Francestown	Francestown Town Hall	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Greenfield	Greenfield Town Hall	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Hancock	Hancock Elementary School	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Peterborough	Peterborough Community Center	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sharon	Sharon Meeting House	11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Temple	Temple Town Hall	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

on the **ninth day of March** next for the second session of the Meeting (polls will be open for voting by official ballot at the second session)

Article 01: Operating Budget-School District-SB2

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$52,583,177? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$51,065,984 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Contoocook Valley School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 02: Accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the Contoocook Valley Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the ConVal School Board and the ConVal Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2021-2022	\$847,899

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$847,899 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.
(The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 03: Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended Collective Bargaining Unit

Shall the District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Article 04: Appropriate to Special Education Reserve Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Special Education Reserve Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2021 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 05: Appropriate to the Building Capital Reserve Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to be added to the Building Capital Reserve Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2021 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 06: Appropriate to the Energy Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Contoocook Valley School District Energy Trust Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2021 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 07: Appropriate to the Equipment Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Equipment Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2021 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021 with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 08: Appropriate to the Athletics Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Athletics Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2021 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021 with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 09: Appropriate to the Building Capital Reserve Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the Building Capital Reserve Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2021 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021 with no amount to be raised from taxation. In the event that Article 5 passes, this appropriation shall be in addition to any appropriation to the Building Capital Reserve pursuant to Article 5. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 10: Accept Reports of Agents and Auditors

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District accept the reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees, and Officers chosen?

Article 11: School Board Salaries

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District appoint the salaries of the School Board and fix the annual compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as follows: School Board Chair, \$1500; each member, \$1000; Treasurer, \$2,500; Moderator, \$300? (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 12: Fund Balance Retention

Beginning in fiscal year 2022/2023, to see if the school district will vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount, in any fiscal year, not to exceed 5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. Such fund balance retained may only be expended after conducting a public hearing by the governing body in accordance with RSA 198:4-b. (Majority vote required)

Article 13: School Board Members

To choose Contoocook Valley School District Officers as follows: Four (4) Members of the School Board; one (1) from the Town of Bennington for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Greenfield for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Temple for a term of three (3) years.