

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

School Board Meeting

6:00 p.m.

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87500110260?pwd=cEtwcm40UE9GNnp2YjBLS0dMOGU4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 0011 0260

Passcode: i8uqJR

Phone: +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 875 0011 0260

Passcode: 040233

Minutes

Board

Rich Cahoon, Jim Fredrickson,
Katherine Heck, Janine Lesser,
Niki McGettigan, Kevin Pobst,
Robert Short, Jr., Tim Theberge,
Stephen Ullman, Jerome Wilson

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Rich Cahoon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tim Theberge moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II for matters of legal and personnel.

Jerry Wilson second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to exit non-public session at 6:19 p.m. Niki McGettigan second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for both for 5 years. Katherine second.

Jim Fredrickson abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

2. Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration

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

3. Public Comment

None.

4. New Business

a. ESSER Grant Funds – Part II

Kimberly Saunders said that the reason she wanted to meet tonight was because she wanted the board to know about ESSER Grant dollars. No action is needed.

The information was received on Friday. Guidelines, but no guidance has been received. These are federal dollars.

The budget was reviewed for qualifying items. Ways in which this money could be used was identified. It is similar to other title grants. Musical instruments, K-8 Remote programming, sanitization and cleaning, replacement technology, and mental health services, among others. Kimberly said that the recommendation is to use dollars for these items. Federal dollars may supplement but not supplant. The board could lower the proposed budget by \$500K for those items we know grant dollars could be used. We are hesitant to say that the entire \$1.4M could be used. We have the opportunity to use these funds out to 2023.

Robert Short, Jr. said that we are not really using our budget we are increasing revenue to use for these purposes. Kimberly confirmed and added that the dollars asked for in Article 01 could be reduced.

Robert Short, Jr. said that the net used to be raised by taxes would be lowered.

Stephen Ullman said that he thinks of this grant as a formula grant. While \$1.4M was obligated to us, until we tell the State that we have certain specific expenditures that this grant money could assist, we don't actually have this money.

Kimberly Saunders said that this is true, this is entitlement grant money. We are very good at using all of these dollars; we typically do not let a grant dollar go unused.

Jim Fredrickson said that we could treat the \$500K as additional revenue. He thought that this would go in a separate fund.

Lori Schmidt said that it would be considered grant funds. Expenses would not flow through the general fund. Until a finalized number is received and approved, we would not see the revenue. We could reduce our operating budget by \$500K. Expenses would run through the grant fund.

Kimberly said that the board does not need to do anything. She simply wanted the board to hear this information as soon as possible.

Jim Fredrickson said that we would be changing Warrant Article 01 by \$500K. Would we reduce the operating budget? Kimberly said that the operating budget would be reduced. We would offset dollars already in the budget and pull the proposed budget down.

Rich Cahoon asked why we would not just recognize this as revenue.

Kimberly Saunders said that could be done but this is also a way to reduce the proposed budget.

Katherine Heck said that this should be counted as additional revenue. We don't know if it will be spent in 2022 or 2023. Until we apply, spend, and have the money, she is unsure about reducing the operating budget at the moment.

Jim Fredrickson said that the gross operating budget would not change but when we present the district assessment numbers, we need to make the point that we might have \$1.4M that will reduce district assessment in the next two years.

Kimberly Saunders said that how the board presents it is up to you. The board needs to decide if action is taken or not and then explain it.

Rich Cahoon asked if any of these options have an impact if the budget is voted down.

If the budget is voted down after this has been included, it becomes a case of how it is recognized.

Stephen Ullman asked if we can be certain that we will receive these funds in grant money. Kimberly confirmed.

Stephen Ullman favored keeping Article 01 as is and lowering the tax rates in the towns.

Rich Cahoon said that we have grant funded positions that aren't part of the operating budget every year.

Katherine Heck said that these monies are to mitigate and make sure that we have continuous operations and make up for lost learning. The intent is to fill the hole that the budget might not be able to in areas of concern.

Jim Fredrickson asked if we are locking ourselves out if the budget does not pass. Kimberly Saunders said that we are not.

Kevin Pobst supported using this money for one time programming. He said that he is not comfortable using it to hire staff or counselors. We would be stuck with those costs going forward. He would not reduce any continuing obligation going forward.

Kimberly Saunders said that the problem is that we don't have a lot of one time programming.

Rich Cahoon asked if we funded the counseling positions out of this would that be what would happen with these funds. Kimberly said that positions are the items that raise flags. We have to be careful on how we enter staff.

Katherine Heck said that this is supposed to be COVID relief money. An exercise would be to go through the current budget to see what was deferred or delayed to see if it fits in the parameters of the grant.

Jim Fredrickson said that the warrant article should be left as written and explain that more money is coming that will result in a reduction.

Katherine cautioned using that language. If mitigating lost learning costs \$1.4M, we won't offset or lower anything if it is a wash.

Stephen Ullman said that he would be interested in knowing how much we spend on one time positions. He is opposed to chopping the number on Warrant Article one.

Rich Cahoon said that the proposal is to leave the warrant as written and communicate what we know. Kevin Pobst and Stephen Ullman agreed as did Katherine Heck.

Katherine Heck said that the government is making efforts in assisting us to get back on track.

Rich Cahoon said that the board needs to be ready to answer questions.

Kimberly Saunders spoke about the potential for FEMA funds for schools as well. Stay tuned.

Rich Cahoon said that nothing will change for the warrant article.

5. Public Comment

None.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Personnel

c. Legal

None.

**Stephen Ullman moved to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Janine Lesser second.
Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok