

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Policy Committee

Tuesday, March 2, 2021
5:00 p.m.

Physical Location: SAU #1, Board Room
106 Hancock Road, Peterborough, NH

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84915721864?pwd=Y2FXSWs5OXFVlQ0b2hxUkF2R013UT09>

Meeting ID: **849 1572 1864**

Passcode: **JAG2X3**

Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: **849 1572 1864**

Password: **456593**

Minutes

School Board Committee Members:

- Katherine Heck
- Janine Lesser
- Kevin Pobst
- Tim Theberge
- Stephen Ullman

Present: Janine Lesser, Katherine Heck, Kevin Pobst, Tim Theberge, Stephen Ullman, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Dr. Ann Forrest, Lori Schmidt

1. Call to order

Janine Lesser called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Acceptance of the minutes from February 16, 2021

Stephen Ullman moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 2021. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

3. Report on any updates: Legal for Title IX policy set, EHAC Electronic & Digital Records Signature; Administrative review for EBCG-Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies, JLCG-Exclusion of Students, JLCE-First Aid & Emergency Care; DM-Cash in School Buildings, DN-Equipment & Supplies

Nothing new was reported on the status of the above policies.

4. Revisit BEDH-Public Participation (Tim's reformulation of ConVal version)

Discussion took place about two periods of public comment on School Board agendas; the first can be on topics on or off the agenda, the second period is designated for items on the agenda. Each person is allowed two minutes to speak, unless voted to extend.

Why can't the second public comment session be for any topic? The agenda is designed to streamline the meeting. Kevin Pobst said that if one sat through the meeting, they might have something to say that is non-agenda related. Katherine Heck said that she would like it to be general for both public comment sections whether the topic is on the agenda or not. It is important for citizen participation.

Stephen Ullman said that offering two public comment sessions is generous. He favored one being limited to agenda items only. During the second session, if limited to the agenda, the opportunity for an explanation from the board or administration might be allowed. He shared his concern for the length of meetings.

Kimberly Saunders said that her role is to provide insight of previous boards work. There is no reason why there can only be one comment session. The second was added to allow additional comment.

The School Board meeting is a business meeting, which is part of the reason why public comment were held to two minutes and agenda related.

Tim Theberge favored keeping it as drafted and outreaching to the community to encourage input.

Katherine Heck said that there is a trend to allow public comment and allow citizens to participate in hearings and meetings because it leads to more trust and overall satisfaction.

Tim Theberge said that we could go with the open approach and ramp it back if the board finds it problematic.

Therefore, both public comment sessions will be open to comments on any topic, not only related to the agenda.

Stephen Ullman agreed, adding that the two-minute limit should remain.

The committee agreed to leave it at two open topic public comment sessions.

5. Revisit KE-Public Complaints

Pulling Policy KE from New Hampshire School Board Association was discussed.

Kevin Pobst suggested the title be changed to Complaints from the Public.

Simply titling it "Complaints" was also suggested.

Kimberly Saunders shared concern with the various complaint topics outlined. Certain complaints should not go directly to the board.

The word "complaint" is the germane term. The chain of command does need to be followed.

Under item 3, considering rather than hearing a complaint is preferred.

Discussion ensued.

Attaching the communication was suggested.

Janine Lesser said that she wasn't all in on attaching it.

Dr. Forrest noted several changes for suggestion; omitting the "or" in item 1 and also eliminating the second sentence.

6. Review proposed new Board member materials

"Operating Procedures" under the School Board shared drive is where this manual sits.

A final review of the manual will take place and sent to the incoming Board Chair.

This too, can go on the agenda for March 16th.

It will be sent to the entire board – letter to board members.

7. BDE – Committees and School Board Member Special-Duty Assignments

Kevin Pobst said that he would like this to be made a policy.

Janine Lesser said that this should be given a closer look.

Kevin Pobst said that this policy allows flexibility.

Janine Lesser shared her concern for not knowing what some of what is stated means.

Committees set goals for their work for the year. Typically, they are aligned to the goals established by the Board.

The majority of the committee was in favor with this committee moving forward for a first read as a new policy.

8. Adjourn

Stephen Ullman moved to adjourn at 6:02 p.m. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok