

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**106 Hancock Road**

**Peterborough, New Hampshire**

**CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**School Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Physical Location: SAU 1, Board Room**

**106 Hancock Rd.**

**Peterborough, NH**

**Virtual Location:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235909240?pwd=UFc0ZUNvRVdYbzZKTStZMkRETEZDdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 823 5797 7463**

**Passcode: HbarX3**

**Phone: +1 646 558 8656**

**Webinar ID: 822 3590 9240**

**Passcode: 233961**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD**

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.  
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.  
Lori Schmidt, B.A.  
Carrie James, H.R.  
Heather McKillop, CVHS  
Kat Foecking, GBS  
Anne O'Bryant, SMS  
Amy Janoch, HES  
Colleen Roy, GES  
Deb Riley, CVHS  
Fabi Woods, TES  
Stephanie Syre-Hager, AES  
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Rich Cahoon called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration**

Rich Cahoon read the "Right to Know for Public Meeting Emergency Declaration". A roll call attendance was taken.

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

**a. Legal**

Tim Theberge moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II for legal matters and personnel at 6:35 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to exit non-public session at 6:49 p.m. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Tim Theberge moved to seal the minutes of legal, negotiations, and personnel for a period of 10 years. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

**4. Accept School Board Meeting Minutes (Board Vote Required)**

**a. February 2, 2021**

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2021. Katherine Heck second. Linda Quintanilha abstained. All others in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

**b. February 16, 2021**

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 2021. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

## 5. Points of Pride

Kimberly Saunders shared various Points of Pride as reported to her by administrators. In addition, the Girl's and Boys' Basketball seasons continue; boys playing Lebanon on Thursday and girls' home on Friday.

## 6. Public Comment

Don Boice and Bryson Boice, spoke requesting a change to the ConVal COVID policy for athletes playing sports. He is a three-season athlete and he hopes to take part in LAX but said that he supports his brothers and that he wants them not to have to remain remote as a result. He asked that an open mind be kept when considering this.

Corey Boyd, requested that the administration prepare reasoning on the K-8 Remote Plan. She would like to see the cost, not just staffing, projected enrollment and a three to five-year plan. Also, what the students will be missing should be included. She has heard that kids are behind and does not want to see a plan implemented that is not working.

Anna Taylor, ConVal Senior and lacrosse player, does not believe athletes should have to stay remote. She struggles with remote and said that lacrosse helps her mental health. She feels like she should be there for her team and not have to sacrifice. She suggested that a COVID Safety Monitor be in place to keep athletes safe.

Hunter Burgess offered support to Bryson and Anna on the sports program. The choices have been difficult for parents when considering the sibling policy.

Leigh Frosch asked the board to think about the faculty that has students who attend the high school. She is a teacher in the district and has students in the district. She would like for parents who work in the district to be able to go to work when they have students who play sports and not be required to teach remotely.

## 7. Consent Agenda

### a. March 1, 2021 Enrollment Update

Kimberly Saunders reported enrollment holding steady. The kindergarten registration process is just beginning. More information will be forthcoming.

## 8. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

### a. Monthly Events Calendar

Kimberly Saunders referenced the calendar. More to come after the vote when committee assignments have been made.

Rich Cahoon raised the possibility of a schedule change to reconsider the School Board meeting schedule of meeting on Tuesdays. More discussion to come at the next meeting.

### b. ConVal School District Reopening Update & Local COVID Data Update

Kimberly Saunders said that pandemic is the driving force of much of our work. Decreases in positive rates have been recognized in local and state data. No change is needed in the status of our schools.

The CDC released new guidance recently and our plan aligned well with that guidance. Random testing of staff and students was suggested by the CDC. Kimberly said that she did not recommend that for our staff.

Emergency Order 85 will be discussed. As numbers decline, we are receiving calls for students to return to buildings. It is not yet presenting concerns, but class size and the 6 feet apart piece may become problematic. She asked the Board to keep this on their radar.

Stephen Ullman asked if randomized testing is being conducted in public schools. Kimberly said that she is not aware of it other than at private boarding schools.

Katherine Heck asked if there was insight into what Spring sports might look like.

Kimberly Saunders said that we did have siblings come back to school rather than quarantine. We will be talking to coaches about athletes returning this Monday. The next plan will not include household members needing to quarantine. We are looking to make sure that we are able to have full participation as a team in outdoor sports. Logistics go with this, but we are not looking to quarantine team members or household members.

Bringing back all high school students without a cohort model is under discussion. Stay tuned.

Tim Theberge said that if we could at least bring the seniors back, if we can't do it for everyone, it would be ideal.

Rich Cahoon said that the timeline is that athletics will be a conversation at the next board meeting. Conversation about bringing everyone at the high school back will occur in April at the earliest.

### c. Impact of Governor's Order on ConVal Plan

Executive Order (EO) 85 was signed on 2/19. In summary the EO outlines three things; first, if we select a hybrid model everyone has to be able to access school at least two days a week. Students receiving special services would need access to in person services if determined to be necessary. Finally, if a school was to transition to fulltime remote, anything above 40 hours needs a waiver. Following our March recess, we have a week planned for remote. Based on this information, she began to work with the Commissioner to see what fit and what did not. The high school model did not. Other districts go two days on and two days off. The other piece was the March recess. The Commissioner said that the present model of cohort is acceptable however, the quarantine period after the March recess was under discussion. Concern about a high number of students that might need to quarantine and potential lack of staff is a concern. Kimberly surveyed staff. Administration says that based on the number of people that need to quarantine, elementary schools can meet the requirements of the EO. We recommend those students return on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The remaining, if a waiver is not received, will return on March 29<sup>th</sup> but will need to be assigned to large spaces. If the waiver is granted, Tier I will be brought back on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

All buildings will be able to return completely in person on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We are waiting to hear back from the Commissioner. Those students and staff that do travel outside of New England will need to quarantine. Those staff that are 14 days past being vaccinated will not need to quarantine.

Rich Cahoon clarified that the cohort model assumes to continue. Confirmed.

Kevin Pobst asked to review again. March 29<sup>th</sup> would include SMS, GBS, and CVHS to return if the waiver is not granted. Because we won't have enough staff, we would need larger locations to physically space students.

Linda Quintanilha asked if it was not recommended that staff travel outside of New England for essential reasons only. She was surprised by over 100 staff traveling.

Kimberly Saunders said that there is no data on student travel. Guidance is that travel should be for essential reasons only.

Rich Cahoon asked if students are in the gym but remoting into their classrooms to meet requirements of the State. He asked the educational value and the potential for them to remote in from home.

Kimberly said that students want to be in school for their peers and the social piece.

Robert Short said that we planned for the break afterward and vacation plans got scheduled. He said that if we are required to be at a place working, staff should make sure they are there to work and not force the district to change because we decide not to get back from vacation in time to meet the quarantine.

Linda Quintanilha asked if we are paying teachers for their quarantine. Kimberly said that it depends on what their position is and what they do. She added that staff have rearranged their plans. In addition, staff made plans for the calendar that they were given. Only ten schools in the state were not in school at the time when this order came down. Seven of the ten were Charter Schools. The majority of public schools are in session.

Rich Cahoon said that the plan was in place and then changed by the State at the last minute.

Niki McGettigan said that it is this EO that has undermined what was going to work for both staff and students.

#### **d. Recognition of Departing School Board Members**

Kimberly Saunders recognized outgoing board members; Linda Quintanilha, who has been on the board for nine years. Linda has been an active member and a wonderful advocate for students and will be sorely missed. Also leaving is Niki McGettigan who has provided the board with heart and soul in the areas of teaching and learning.

Rich Cahoon added that these two board members have been a tremendous help to the board. Linda has accomplished much for students with special needs in the district. She has been thoughtful about equity for students.

Niki joined the board and has been a tremendous help in the community of Temple and with the board.

The board thanked them for their service on the board.

### **9. Reports**

#### **a. Teacher Representative**

Rachael Heard said that she has nothing new to report.

#### **b. Equity Committee – Linda Quintanilha**

Linda Quintanilha reported that discussion about how students are placed in classes at the high school in particular was discussed. Inequities have been found and they are being addressed. She encouraged other board members to join this committee.

#### **c. Selectmen's Advisory Committee – Tim Theberge**

Tim Theberge reported that the conversation included Kimberly Saunders providing legislative updates relative to education. The budget was briefly discussed.

#### **d. Policy Committee – Janine Lesser**

Janine Lesser reported meeting tonight. Policy BEDH was approved as well as KE, which was renamed. Policy BDE was discussed. All three will come for a first read later in March.

Two documents were approved; a "What to Expect" for new board members to allow a preview to new board members. In addition, an operation manual for new and existing board members has been developed. It is a condensed version of operational policies.

Rich Cahoon reminded that the NHSBA does a series of training on how to be a board member. There is a fee that the district does budget for. Tim noted some information is available online for free as well.

### **10. Old Business**

#### **a. School Board Candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair – Q&A**

Janine Lesser is a candidate for Vice-Chair and Tim Theberge for Chair

Tim Theberge said that he has been on the board going into his third year. He has put forward his name to serve as Board Chair.

Rich Cahoon said that candidates for board positions have been invited to tonight's meeting.

Niki McGettigan highly recommended Tim and thanked him for stepping up for this position. He has been a problem solver and steps up when needed.

Tim Theberge commended the work of the district on behalf of students.

Janine Lesser said that she has been on the board for six years and is up for re-election for a third team. She sees the role of the Vice-Chair to take over the duties of the Chairman if needed. She believes that a side role is to seek unity of the board and support administration.

### **11. New Business**

#### **a. Set Out of District Tuition Rate (Board Vote Required)**

Kimberly Saunders said that the board decides yearly about tuition for students who reside outside the district. She said that there is some legislation that would open public school choice across the state.

Katherine Heck asked about how the rates are set.

Kimberly explained how the rates have been set in prior years. We regularly receive inquiries. We have told families that they can tuition into the district but might not have room in a requested school because of staffing needs.

Rich Cahoon said that the Business Administrator at the time was asked what the incremental cost to add a student would be. It was determined to be 40%, which was substantially more than the breakeven cost.

Stephen Ullman asked if adequacy follows tuition students. Kimberly said that it does not. Districts receive adequacy for those students that attend that live in their towns.

Kevin asked how we got here. Rich said that in the educator's contract is a provision that staff can send their children at 1/3 the cost. We wanted those outside of the district to pay slightly more.

The theory was that we had space and could sell it.

Kevin Pobst asked if consideration for raising the price has been given. Kimberly said that she thinks that people are staying pretty close to home.

Jim Fredrickson asked the rationale on the differentiation on staff costs for schools. Kimberly said that it is outlined in the contract.

Robert Short said that tuition is set by using figures one year old. Tuition might be aligned with projected current costs.

Kimberly said that this is completely up to the board. We can go back and look at data. We can come back with differences in what the DOE numbers are and our numbers.

Rob said that the difference would be the difference between the two budgets. He suggested thinking about the process moving forward.

Rich Cahoon encouraged that there are people that have enrolled their children under this expectation and suggested grandfathering them in if it should change.

Linda Quintanilha said that she is a proponent of looking at this if the cost is less than what is charged.

Jerry Wilson asked how this tuition rate compares to other districts. Kimberly said that most charge the full cost per pupil.

Robert Short said that if you only charge \$1,200, the district is supplementing kids from coming into the district. This makes it more equitable for those in district.

Linda said that she was not suggesting \$1,200, but less than currently charged.

Jim Fredrickson suggested that Budget & Property take a look at this next year. A deeper dive will take place.

Rich said that tuition for the upcoming years needs a decision.

**Kevin Pobst moved to approve the out of district tuition rate as presented. Dick Dunning second.**

KRS cautioned legislation might overturn a vote.

**Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

#### **b. 2021-20221 School Calendar Approval (Board Vote Required)**

**Dick Dunning moved to approve the proposed calendar as presented. Kevin Pobst second.**

**Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

#### **c. Set CVHS Date of Graduation**

The proposed graduation date is Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Rather than go to another weekend, people can know that it is graduation weekend.

Four tickets per graduate, with the potential for more if conditions permit.

**Dick Dunning moved to approve the date of graduation as presented. Katherine Heck second.**

Sunday would be the rain, rain date.

Will it be livestreamed? Kimberly said that it was successful and will continue.

**Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

#### **d. Board Position on Upcoming Legislation**

Katherine Heck said that HB455 - School Choice has a hearing on March 4<sup>th</sup>. If the board has a position she can send out the links.

HB110 – Adequacy going right to towns. The intention is to offset property and tax rate reduction. It adds steps to how money moves. Does the board have a position? It is set to pass in legislature.

SB72 – Proposal on retirement. It is proposed to fund at 15%.

Rich Cahoon said NH Retirement is up almost \$4M since he joined the board. It accounts for a large part of the increase in the proposed school budget.

Tim Theberge asked if the sense of the board was to act or submit a position would a motion be made and someone be instructed to do that.

**Tim Theberge moved to have Katherine Heck submit objection to HB110. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on roll call vote.**

Stephen Ullman supported the restructure of New Hampshire Retirement System SB 72.

**Linda Quintanilha moved to support the SB 72. Stephen Ullman second.**

Robert Short, Jr. asked if this would decrease our contribution. Katherine Heck said that it would reduce the subdivision across the State. This would be helpful; \$53M across the State.

Rich Cahoon said that there is an employee contribution and State contribution.

Stephen Ullman said that we are scheduled to pay \$3.1M. He said that we would pay 85% of that if the bill was enacted. Confirmed.

**Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**Tim Theberge moved to authorize the Chair to submit it upon review. Robert Short, Jr. second.**

**Tim Theberge withdrew since Katherine is designated. The second was withdrawn.**

HB455 – Rich Cahoon said that since the state does not fund education there is the danger of drawing people to the district to be subsidized by those in the district.

**Linda Quintanilha moved to oppose HB455. Dick Dunning second.**

Tim Theberge said that the concept of true school choice in the public-school arena is not objectionable except when the State does not pay their share.

Rich Cahoon said that this makes a provision that special education money comes with adequacy which is less than the cost of that education. He supports the motion.

**Katherine Heck abstained. All others in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.**

**e. Accept MRF from Francestown (Board Vote Required)**

- 1) ConVal School District Business Office requests authorization to accept from: The Town of Francestown, MRF Surplus Funds, valued at \$1,287.10 for the purpose of covering COVID expenses for Francestown students.

Kimberly Saunders said that we thought that we would get FEMA dollars and then we didn't. Francestown is giving the district some of their MRF Surplus funds.

**Kevin Pobst moved to accept the donation as presented with gratitude. Dick Dunning second.**

**Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**f. Evaluation Update**

Kimberly Saunders reported a proposal to change dates for evaluations. It meets statutory guidelines and has been approved by the CBA. It is a one-year agreement.

**Kevin Pobst moved to approve the proposal to change dates for evaluations. Jerry Wilson second.**

**Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**12. Public Comment**

Scott Daniels thanked the board for the work that they do. He referenced a letter sent today asking for consideration of returning students to the high school. He asked the board to consider adjusting the plan to the cohort model similar to other districts that allows students to attend two days a week. It is beneficial to students for their emotional health. Contact with teachers and peers is valuable. He asked that 9-12 return at least two days per week.

Tracy Kinney said that her son got to participate in sports this winter. She asked that the sibling requirement to stay remote be overturned. Because he had to be remote it has taken a toll on him emotionally and mentally.

Don Boice thanked the board. He hears positive comments about in person learning.

Emily Daniels emphasized the importance of the needs of teens that are essential.

**13. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)**

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests totaling \$247,421.87 and Payroll totaling \$1,917,101.38 have been reviewed by her and found to be proper charges against the Contoocook Valley School District for goods and/or services received and have been properly processed prior to their submittal to the School Board.

**Dick Dunning moved to approve the manifests as presented. Jim Fredrickson second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

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

- a. Negotiations
- b. Personnel
- c. Legal

**Tim Theberge moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II for matters of personnel at 8:38 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on roll call vote.**

**Tim Theberge moved to exit non-public session and to seal the minutes of non-public session for a period of 10 years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**Linda Quintanilha moved to adjourn at 9:51 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok