

# OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road

Peterborough, New Hampshire

## CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

### School Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: SAU #1 Board Room

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmU2L5JJj-c>

### Minutes

#### BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Keira Christian,  
Richard Dunning, Alan Edelkind,  
Jim Fredrickson, Katherine Heck,  
Greg Kriebel, Kevin Pobst,  
Tim Theberge, Jerome Wilson

#### ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.  
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.  
Lori Schmidt, B.A.  
Tim Grossi, Facilities  
Larry Pimental, PES  
John Reitnauer, CVHS  
Fabiola Woods, TES  
Amy Janoch, Learning Recovery  
Kat Foecking, GBS  
Tim Conway, SMS  
Ben Moenter, Special Ed.  
Carrie James, H.R.  
Heather McKillop, CVHS

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

Tim Theberge called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### 2. Points of Pride

Dr. Kimberly Saunders reported out on various Points of Pride as shared with her from administrators.

#### 3. Public Comment

Tim Theberge shared the primary purpose of a board meeting. In addition, he outlined the rules for public comment participation.

Ashley Destromp, Antrim, spoke about the lowering of oxygen levels when children use masks and said that masks are useless. She spoke about the training required to properly use PPE. Ms. Destromp said that one side of science is being followed. Masks are not required by most people. This is not a political statement. ConVal is publicly funded. The private bus company is funded with tax payer dollars.

Alyssa Eccard, Peterborough, asked that masks be made a choice for families. She wondered why everyone cannot have the choice. She said that she struggles that her children wear a mask daily. Children are petrified to take a mask off outside. They need reminders that it is okay to take the mask off outside. She said that allergy season will soon cause children to miss school because of sniffles.

Erin Nolan, Peterborough, asked the board for choice of masking to be considered. She said that she understands that COVID is here and not going anywhere. Parents need to make this choice for them. With regard to the lack of substitutes, she would substitute but refuses to wear a mask all day.

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

a. Legal

b. Negotiations

Rich Cahoon moved to enter into non-public session at 7:13 p.m. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

**Katherine Heck moved to exit non-public session at 8:15 p.m. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.**

**Katherine Heck moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for a period of 10 years. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.**

## **5. Consent Agenda**

### **a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes**

1) September 7, 2021

### **b. Personnel**

1) Retirements

2) Co-Curricular Notifications

The Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

## **6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business**

### **a. Reopening Update**

New DHHS guidance says that the plan will follow their guidance. Close contact with a child in school does not require one to quarantine. Household positives would require quarantine. If the student or adult is vaccinated, they do not have to quarantine. Getting tested 3-5 days from last known exposure is recommended.

Alan Edelkind said that seven positive cases were reported at ConVal today. He asked how they are reported. Kimberly Saunders said that either parents or the staff member is letting the district know.

Keira Christian asked if household contacts extend to students who were at a sleepover or a split household. The split household would apply but not apply to a sleepover.

Rich Cahoon said that the vaccine permits one not to quarantine. Is proof of vaccination required? Yes.

Kimberly Saunders said that the contact tracing is not being done by the State. We have begun working with local professionals to do the tracing.

Rich Cahoon asked about masks outside. He said that he thought that they were not required. Kimberly Saunders confirmed that masks are not required outside. Rich Cahoon further asked that we make sure that masks outside are optional. Confirmed. Signage is being posted outside.

Greg Kriebel asked that staff remind students that they do not have to wear their masks outside. Kimberly confirmed that we can remind staff to remind students to let students know.

Greg Kriebel said that if a student or staff has a runny nose and tests negative, they may return to school. Confirmed. Students with documented health conditions such as allergies or headaches by a physician can attend school.

Kimberly Saunders said that the change today would be that we would only consider household contacts as contacts that would need to quarantine. Vaccinated individuals would not need to quarantine.

Kimberly Saunders said that she pledged that she would be transparent to the community when positive cases are identified. Some find it annoying. It would be unrealistic that we would not have positive cases. She is worried about desensitizing people. She asked the board for guidance on whether the information should continue to be communicated.

**Katherine Heck moved to change our communication to school-based communication for positive cases within a school so that it is not overwhelming to other schools.**

**Greg Kriebel second.**

Keira Christian asked if we would be comfortable extending the communication to include others in the area.

Katherine Heck said that she made a motion and doesn't want people to unsubscribe to Kimberly's communications.

Kevin Pobst said that our plan calls for metrics to be regionally based. He assumed that the emails that have been sent out were regionally. He is skeptical to limiting it to a town or school.

Rich Cahoon agreed and said that he wants to see what the district looks like in terms of positive cases.

Kevin Pobst suggested a shorter version as well as provide a link that outlines the guidelines so as not to be repetitive.

Katherine Heck said that she has been working with individuals responsible for the data dashboard last year to get that back up online.

**In favor: Greg Kriebel, Katherine Heck**

**Current: Rich Cahoon, Dick Dunning, Alan Edelkind, Kevin Pobst, Keira Christian, Jerry Wilson, Jim Fredrickson.**

**Motion failed. District notifications will remain in place.**

Kimberly Saunders said that the Reopening Plan was submitted in late May and again in early August to allow feedback from our communities. Neither time did the DOE comment. Recently, we received an email that said that absent a State of Emergency from the Governor, we do not have the option to move to a remote model. We look at the yellow phase at 500 positive cases; we are at 456. What has happened is that we can still make the decision to move to a different phase of the program. The DOE is moving quickly to close the loop that allows that to happen. We do not have a mid-phase to tamp things down and then bring students back in. When we ask students to quarantine we do not have an option for them. Kimberly Saunders said that the board has voted no money for a remote option nor does she have the

staff for a remote option. The number of students that are out of school is higher right now than it is typically at this time of year. They are losing instruction. She is looking to the board to allow some funding to move forward to develop a parallel plan for students to access.

Rich Cahoon said that since we don't have remote funds and we don't have staff for a remote program, shouldn't we focus on what we can do for mitigation steps that would not require us to go remote.

Kimberly said that there is no way to increase social distancing without adding staff. We can bring plexiglass back. Our mitigation strategies are more effective than less. The positive rates are coming into the schools and not going out.

Kimberly Saunders said that she needs \$100,000 for staffing, additional technology, and reopening our hotspots.

Katherine Heck asked that if the State closes the loop and requires the five-day learning, where does that put us.

Kimberly Saunders said that she is concerned about quarantined students who are out of school for longer periods of time.

Greg Kriebel asked if this would not fall under acute loss of learning. Can we use our lost learning program and funds toward this?

Kimberly said that the fastest way not to lose learning is to act fast and not lose it. Adding lost learning on top of that lost last year will require resources.

Alan Edelkind asked if Kimberly is looking for resources for a remote school?

Kimberly confirmed for students who are out of school due to quarantine.

Rich Cahoon said that the new guidance from the State would be a heavy lift for him to vote in favor of remote again.

He draws a distinction between parents who have an option to quarantine students and those who do not.

Therefore, he would like to vote yes on the elementary schools because those students do not have an option.

How many kids need to be served? At any given time, between 7 and 15, K-12.

Dick Dunning said that this would be for students who are home due to COVID and not for students out for other reasons. Confirmed.

Kimberly said that if a child was immune compromised and wanted to be remote she would like to say yes.

Alan Edelkind asked for confirmation that this would not be long-term remote. Kimberly confirmed that it would be very short term.

Jerry Wilson said that in the past when students who have been out for some time, home bound instructors would be used. Why not use similar resources? Kimberly said that is what we are asking for homebound instruction remotely.

**Kevin Pobst moved to authorize the Superintendent to spend up to \$100,000 to create a homebound instruction program that is remote for students who are quarantining due to COVID this year.**

**Dick Dunning second.**

Jim Fredrickson asked how soon this would be implemented. Kimberly said that she wants to advertise and hire homebound tutors.

Alan Edelkind asked why set a dollar amount since other criteria has been set. It is a way of showing constraint.

Rich Cahoon asked if this could be contracted services. Kimberly Saunders confirmed.

**In favor: Unanimous.**

**Opposed: None.**

#### **b. Monthly Events Calendar**

The monthly events calendar was reviewed.

Policy Committee was cancelled on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **c. Enrollment Update**

Total enrollment for ConVal is currently 2,086 Pre-K to Grade 12.

### **7. Reports**

#### **a. Teacher Representative – Cheryl Jessie**

None.

#### **b. Communication Committee – Alan Edelkind/Janine Lesser**

Alan Edelkind reported that the Community Forum details consumed much of the meeting discussion.

#### **c. Budget & Property Committee – Dick Dunning/Jim Fredrickson**

Jim Fredrickson reported four items were discussed. The solar project was touched on in terms of timeline.

Tim Grossi reported that Revision is waiting on resources. The start date is to be determined.

Jim Fredrickson said that adding a technology trust fund was suggested moving forward.

#### **d. Strategic Plan Committee- Tim Theberge**

Kimberly Saunders reported that the process of how the subcommittees would work was discussed. The process was adopted. Subcommittee meetings were scheduled. Some times are not ideal for various reasons.

**e. Education Committee – Stephen Ullman**

Dick Dunning reported that the timeline for Education Committee meetings for the year was discussed. The assessment schedule was discussed as well as HB320, requiring the US Citizenship test that must be passed beginning with the sophomore class. In addition, graduation requirements were discussed. In particular a half credit for community service which is in policy but never in the Course of Studies. Dick recommended suspending the half credit requirement for community service until the high school can come forward with a recommendation. **Dick Dunning moved to suspend the half credit for community service until we have a recommendation come through policy.**

**Keira Christian second. Unanimous.**

Dick thanked the high school and Ann Forrest for bringing this forward.

**f. Policy Committee – Katherine Heck**

Katherine Heck reported having met tonight. Policy DN will come for a first read soon.

CBI will come before the board which will allow clarity on this function.

The fall policy update was released with 18 policies for consideration of which eight are required by law.

**8. Old Business**

**a. Community Forum**

Alan Edelkind thanked the board and administration for the time and expertise in moving this activity forward. He wants to thank the ConVal Community for completing the survey. He referenced community forum activities, presentation in the first hour, and survey results.

134 responded to the survey with an anticipated 84-92 to attend. Topics for the forum were shared.

Additional topics were added, of which there were 18. We should be prepared to answer questions on these topics during the second hour.

Nine people require childcare to attend.

Community forum activities were outlined to make sure nothing has been missed. Items outstanding to be completed were outlined.

Katherine Heck asked how those in the overflow can ask questions; can they email in. Tim confirmed that something can be arranged.

**9. New Business**

**a. Occupational Therapist Justification (Board Vote Required)**

Kimberly Saunders said that increasing one position and decreasing another position is asked. We have not been able to hire an OT assistant. Increasing it to meet student needs is asked.

**Katherine Heck moved to hire an Occupational Therapist. Jerry Wilson second. Unanimous.**

Registered Nurse Justification – this request is made due to student medical needs. There are new needs that were previously unknown. A part-time nurse is asked.

**Katherine Heck moved to accept the proposal to add a .5 registered nurse.**

**Kevin Pobst second. Unanimous.**

**b. Expenditures and Encumbrances**

Lori Schmidt reported finalizing the payroll position and movement between where people were last year and where they are this year. A proper budget transfer request will follow. Shifts into appropriate functions needs to translate this year.

**Katherine Heck moved to accept the Expenditure and Encumbrance report. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**c. Budget Guidance 2022-2023**

Jim Fredrickson said that on August 17<sup>th</sup> the preliminary budget guidance was reviewed.

Four items for consideration:

Assumptions and conditions – learning recovery is not in the budget, Capital Improvement Plan fund would happen in 2023, ongoing negotiation on new collective bargaining agreement under separate warrant. No increases will be include in the budget.

Major variables –unknown and rising material cost escalation, CPI is 5.4% increase. Impact on 2022 enrollment on state revenue is unknown.

Budget Schedule – voting tonight with November 6<sup>th</sup> workshop date in place.

Decisions include:

The decision not to include remote learning. Should a provision be included in the proposed budget?

Capital improvement funding – concern that we are not spending enough in the budget on capital improvement. Costs have gone up. Suggestion is to set a target as a percentage of proposed gross budget for capital spending of 2%. Less than 1% has been being spent.

Provide a target for total increase: 0%,2%, 4% Kimberly Saunders shared what the increases would total.

Jim Fredrickson said that the issue he has is that the CBA is under negotiation and will be subject of a separate warrant article. He cited other obligations. Jim said that these targets should be applied to what we can control. Jim further said that half of the total operating costs would be taken out because it is contractual. Jim said that adding criteria in terms of classroom size constraints was discussed. Do we want to include dollars for remote learning? Do we want a Capital Improvement plan as part of the budget?

Katherine Heck said that the remote option is not on the table. We approved money for homebound students and not in the future.

What is appropriate to include as part of a capital plan in the budget? Katherine Heck spoke about funding options. Setting percentage targets to assure the maintenance of facilities is common.

Applying 2% and 4% increases to the parts we can manage was suggested by Jim Fredrickson.

**Dick Dunning moved to give guidance to the Superintendent to build a 2% increase to the present operating budget which does not include the collective bargaining agreement.**

**Katherine Heck second.**

Rich Cahoon said that 2% would result in programmatic cuts with CPI at what it is.

**In favor: Dick Dunning, Greg Kriebel, Alan Edelkind, Keira Christian, Katherine Heck, Jerry Wilson, Jim Fredrickson.**

**Opposed: Rich Cahoon and Kevin Pobst.**

**Motion carried.**

Kimberly Saunders said that 2% on entire operating budget.

Dick Dunning said that there will be a CBA at some point.  
2% of \$51,846,076 is what Kimberly will budget.

Timeline for negotiations? Jerry Wilson speculated that in the next month to month and a half. Rich Cahoon said that we have staff who are not under that contract to be considered. This was discussed at Budget & Property Committee.

Greg Kriebel asked if a decision was made about capital improvement. Not part of the motion.

### **c. Legislative Update 2021-2022**

Tim Theberge said that the DOE is looking to modify two Ed Regulations that would prohibit us from offering remote instruction. Legislative Service Requests (LSR's) were previously reviewed by Tim and Kimberly. There are 200 LSR's that will have a direct impact on public education or this district. This will be a standing agenda item. Katherine Heck provided insight on LSR's making their way.

## **10. Public Comment**

None.

## **11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)**

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests listed totaling \$3,066,394.00, 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 motioned to approve the Manifests as presented. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.**

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

**a. Negotiations**

**b. Legal**

**c. Personnel**

**Katherine Heck moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II for negotiations, legal, and personnel at 10:00. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**Dick Dunning moved to exit non-public session at 10:32 p.m. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.**

**Katherine Heck moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for negotiations for a period of five years. Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.**

**Katherine Heck moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for legal for a period of ten years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Greg Kriebel motioned to adjourn at 10:33 p.m. Jerry Wilson second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok