

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

**CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**School Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 7, 2021  
Immediately Following Public Hearing(s) that begin at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJK5Bowh0xw>**

**Minutes**

**BOARD**

Rich Cahoon, Keira Christian,  
Richard Dunning, Alan Edelkind,  
Jim Fredrickson, Katherine Heck,  
Greg Kriebel, Janine Lesser,  
Kevin Pobst, Tim Theberge,  
Stephen Ullman, Jerome Wilson  
Kat Foecking, GBS

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.  
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.  
Lori Schmidt, B.A.  
Tim Grossi, Facilities  
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 7:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**2. Points of Pride**

Dr. Kimberly Saunders shared various points of pride as reported to her from administrators.

**3. Public Comment**

Tim Theberge shared the rules surrounded with Public Comment.

Alyssa Eccard, Peterborough, said that she has three kids in ConVal. She shared her reasons for wanting her children to attend ConVal schools. She shared her disappointment with the School Board's choice to require masks. She asked the board if they have looked into the funding impact on the decisions of parents to remove their children from ConVal. She asked for reconsideration of the mask requirement.

Jessica, Hancock, said that remote education did not work for her children, nor did homeschool. She said that her children are wearing masks but she is strongly considering pulling her children to private school. She asked that the board look at the data.

Erin Nolan, Peterborough, she said that parents are here simply to be allowed a choice to wear a mask or not. Ms. Nolan pulled up the numbers for positive COVID rates per town. She said that in every town there are zero new cases. These numbers are extremely low comparatively speaking. She shared her confusion with using the regional data rather than per town. She is asking that parents be allowed to make masking choices for their children.

Liz, Peterborough, said that she would like to see the district determine the need for masks. She asked reconsideration that masks be optional. She would like the board to assess the impact of masks on children. The numbers in our area are very low. She said that choice is important.

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

**a. Legal**

**Janine Lesser moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 7:18 p.m. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**Janine Lesser moved to exit Non-Public session at 8:04 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Janine Lesser moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for legal for a period of ten (10) years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

## 5. Consent Agenda

### a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

- 1) August 3, 2021
- 2) August 12, 2021
- 3) August 17, 2021

### b. Personnel

- 1) Nominations
- 2) Co-Curricular Notifications

None.

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

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

### a. Reopening Update

Kimberly Saunders reported on a successful reopening of school in person.

### b. Monthly Events Calendar

The monthly events calendars were reviewed for September and October. The first Community Forum will take place on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Lucy Hurlin Theatre at ConVal High School.

### c. September 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment Update

School opened with 2,106 students. 142 kindergarten students are enrolled at this point this year. Last year's kindergarten class was the largest in a decade.

## 7. Reports

### a. Teacher Representative – Cheryl Jessie

Cheryl Jessie reported that school opened with a smooth start. Teachers and students are happy to be back in person. There have been several cases of COVID, but due to masking and distancing we have been able to carry on.

### b. Strategic Plan Committee – Tim Theberge

Tim Theberge reported that meeting time requests have been surveyed. Letters have gone out for Strategic Plan committees.

### c. Food Service/Wellness Committee – Dick Dunning

Dick Dunning said that Free and Reduced Lunch for all students needs a vote.

**Dick Dunning moved to continue with free meals for the current school year. Katherine Heck second.**

Kimberly Saunders said that federal funds sent to us will be used to offset this. Families are strongly encouraged to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch application. The statistics are used in many places, including the towns to receive grant funding.

Rich Cahoon confirmed that we will receive the flat amount in funding. Additionally, we count on a la carte sales. What are we looking at for a potential deficit?

Lori Schmidt said that it is early in the year. As she receives more data, she will report back.

**Unanimous.**

Dick Dunning said that meal costs for adult staff are being reviewed.

In addition, the summer food program needs consideration. Will we continue to sponsor the summer program? Do we still want to carry the financial burden of this program?

### c. Selectmen's Advisory Committee- Stephen Ullman

Stephen Ullman said that there was interest in the Reopening Plan at the last meeting and Kimberly provided a presentation. Vaccination rates were discussed and the indicators that the district is using to determine conditions for instruction.

In addition, the Select board was interested in the Department of Agriculture funding for school lunch.

### d. Policy Committee – Katherine Heck

Katherine Heck reported that the committee met to review policy. The Hazing policy comes for a second read and adoption tonight. Other policies reviewed were shared.

Policy status is being tracked and will continue to move forward.

## 8. Old Business

### a. Legislative Update

None.

**b. Policies 2<sup>nd</sup> Read/Adoption**

- JICFA: Hazing

**Janine Lesser moved to adopt Policy JICFA. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.**

**9. New Business**

**a. Budget Transfers (Board Vote Required)**

Lori Schmidt focused on two requests; the extra teaching position was used to fill an ILS position. Funding needs to be moved to reflect that.

Reinstate contractual obligations in student programming to support the remote school is also a focus.

**Katherine Heck moved to approve \$85K to accept budget transfer. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Katherine Heck moved to approve \$185,586.00 to reinstate contractual benefits and obligations in student programming. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**b. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)**

- 1) Dublin Consolidated School requests the authorization to accept from the Trustees of the Bitty Foundation, \$10,000 for the purpose of creating an outdoor learning space.

**Dick Dunning moved to accept the gift by the Bitty Foundation as outlined with gratitude. Alan Edelkind second. Unanimous.**

- 2) Dublin Consolidated School requests the authorization to accept from the Dublin Community Foundation, \$3,800.00 for the purpose of creation of an outdoor learning space.

**Dick Dunning moved to accept the donation as outlined. Alan Edelkind second. Unanimous.**

- 3) South Meadow School requests authorization to accept from FIRST Stewardship Team, Registration, Challenge Set, Robot Spike, valued at \$772.00 for the purpose of First LEGO league Competition/Robotics.

**Katherine Heck moved to accept the gift as outlined. Jerry Wilson second.**

Kevin Pobst asked what GBS involvement is in this. Kimberly said that both schools have this program. These funds will offset the cost.

**Unanimous.**

**c. NH School Board Resolutions**

**Rich Cahoon moved to adopt the resolution proposal by the Mascoma Valley School Board to establish and maintain a scholarship fund for Student Representatives who have served on their district's school board during their high school career.**

**Dick Dunning second.**

Katherine Heck noted two scholarships in place for students of school board members. We should engage with a student representative now that board meetings are in place.

**Unanimous.**

Wilton Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board – NHSBA will advise and confirm all SAU's are paying and segregating dues/payments to NHSBA in accordance with RSA 15:5.

Katherine Heck said that she is unsure if the law has clarity on this exact topic. They do not believe it is an appropriate resolution.

No position.

Keene School Board – NHSBA supports diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects in our schools, is committed to the concept that free and open dialogue around such concepts as racism and sexism is a vital component to education, and opposes any actions which limit this free exchange of ideas.

**Stephen Ullman moved to support this resolution. Kevin Pobst second.**

Stephen Ullman said that these laws undercut local governance and the ability for school districts to establish curricula. He supports this resolution.

**Unanimous.**

Merrimack Valley School Board – The New Hampshire School Boards Association calls upon the New Hampshire Legislature to fund a Post-Graduation Transition Program for each school district to provide a continuum of guidance for graduate transition from high school to vocation, college and career.

Kevin Pobst said that they don't adequately fund anything else. Katherine said that this moves outside of Pre-K-12 education.

No position was stated.

Hanover and Dresden School Boards – Whereas NHSBA supports equity and inclusion in all aspects of education.

Kevin Pobst said that NHSBA recommendation seems reasonable.  
No position.

**10. Public Comment**

Katie Cartier, Greenfield, thanked the board for being here tonight. She said that she was happy to hear some of what the board is discussing tonight. There is a large amount in the community that want the choice for their children. She asked the board to vote with a clear conscience.

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

None.

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

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

**Janine Lesser moved to enter into non-public for matters of negotiations at 8:35 p.m. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**Janine Lesser moved to exit non-public session at 8:54 p.m. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.**

**Janine Lesser moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for negotiations for five years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

**Stephen Ullman motioned to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok