

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

**CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**School Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

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

**Livestream Link: [youtube.com/watch?v=YH-m44QvZ7I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YH-m44QvZ7I)**

**Minutes**

**BOARD**

Rich Cahoon, Keira Christian,  
Richard Dunning, Alan Edelkind,  
Jim Fredrickson, Greg Kriebel,  
Janine Lesser, Kevin Pobst,  
Liz Swan, Tim Theberge,  
Stephen Ullman, Jerome Wilson

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.  
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.

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

Tim Theberge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. Points of Pride**

Kimberly Saunders shared various Points of Pride as reported to her from administrators.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Consent Agenda**

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

1) September 21, 2021

**b. Personnel**

1) Retirements

The Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

**5. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business**

**a. Reopening Update**

Kimberly Saunders reported that the positive cases for COVID are being watched. Outside of one or two close contacts ConVal has not seen any develop into COVID-19.

Increased time outside has been a focus. Maximizing the use of tents is taking place. There is a significant decrease in the per one hundred thousand rates in the Greater Monadnock Area. There are no additional recommendations to be made at this time.

In terms of homebound instruction, we have been able to hire two tutors and are looking for the potential of two more. Based on the number of students homebound now, it is estimated that \$85,000 will be the cost.

Stephen Ullman suggested that the cost for the staff be separated out from the total \$85,000. Kimberly said that this cost is based on individuals working approximately 20 hours per week, which is estimated, for the remainder of the year. Greg Kriebel asked for confirmation that these are contracted hours without benefits. Confirmed.

**b. Monthly Events Calendar**

The calendar was reviewed. Communications will meet on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**c. October 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment Update**

October 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment data was reviewed.

## 6. Reports

### a. Teacher Representative – Cheryl Jessie

Cheryl Jessie recognized nurses for working so hard to assure that staff and students are kept safe. They have been overseeing a multitude of sending students and staff home. Ms. Jessie said that masks help keep students and staff safe. Staff are concerned with the increases in positive cases in the district and the low number of substitutes. Staff are stepping up and covering each other's classes.

### b. Selectmen's Advisory Committee – Tim Theberge

Tim Theberge reported that Kimberly Saunders shared a presentation on the ConVal lawsuit and how we got there at the recent SAC meeting. An update on budget guidance was also provided as well as a report out on recent committee meetings. A statement in support of the lawsuit was asked of the selectmen.

### c. Equity Committee – Rich Cahoon

Rich Cahoon reported discussion on the School Counseling goal K-12. The meeting was focused on sharing perceptions and realities related to counseling and scheduling. Narrowing the scope of the goal was requested. Assuring that the new School Counseling Director was aware of perceptions was a focus as well. Perceptions will either be validated or changed.

### d. Community Forum – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported that approximately 34 people were in attendance with 235 online views. Technology is a positive piece with communication. Alan said that he has received a positive response as a result of the meeting afterward. It was noted that the decorum of the people was a positive.

Alan added that there were too many presentations in hindsight. The time available was more than filled up.

Alan reported receiving contact from NHPR asking to interview him about the forum. He will talk with them on Wednesday.

Janine Lesser asked if the Select board members were supportive about signing the statement about the lawsuit. Tim Theberge said that those in the room expressed no issue with it but he was unaware of the full select boards view.

Keira Christiaan thanked those present at the forum for participating in a thoughtful and kind way. It made the dialogue productive.

Stephen Ullman said that everybody was unified on two points; everybody wants ConVal students to be learning in person and everyone wants to maintain good health among staff and students. The disagreement is about the means to achieve these goals. It was a good night.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Legislative Update

Tim Theberge said that there are several hundred LSR's that directly impact public education in New Hampshire.

## 8. New Business

### a. Policy BCB: Board Members as Substitute Teachers

Tim Theberge reported that he requested that this policy be placed on the agenda because he expected that he might likely be substituting this week. This policy deals with conflict of interest for School Board Members. This policy might be considered for exception in the event board members might substitute in the future.

**Rich Cahoon moved to provide that carve out for the next 90 days to allow an exception for board members to substitute in the district.**

**Dick Dunning second.**

Kimberly Saunders reported that we have administrators substituting on a daily basis.

**Unanimous.**

### b. Policy GCQAB: Tutoring for Pay

Kimberly Saunders asked the board to waive this policy for the remainder of the school year so that we can have teachers tutor students in the instance for homebound students.

Rich Cahoon asked if the last sentence in the policy does not solve the issue.

Kimberly Saunders said that we cannot assign teachers to tutor outside of the day.

**Rich Cahoon moved to waive policy GCQAB from now to June 2022.**

**Keira Christian second.**

Greg Kriebel asked if this would be in addition to the tutors previously discussed.

Kimberly Saunders said that this will allow us to open it up to allow additional tutoring for the same money, not additional money.

Liz Swan asked if these teachers can be hired by individual families as well. Kimberly said that this is not what this waiver is for.

**Unanimous.**

**c. Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Read**

**- DN: School Properties Disposal**

Tim Theberge referenced this policy for a first read.

**- CBI/AFB: Evaluation of the Superintendent and Goal Setting**

Tim Theberge referenced this policy for a first read.

Comments and questions should be directed to Katherine Heck and the Policy Committee.

Rich Cahoon referenced an email of audit results that also referenced specific policies. He asked if policies will be available in time for the spring. ConVal does not have some of the policies listed.

Kimberly Saunders said that she has never seen the entire board be emailed audit results.

Rich Cahoon said that there are model policies for those requested. Other school districts do not have all of the policies on the list as well.

Rich Cahoon reported that it is difficult to get a COVID test. At what point does that become a problem? Kimberly reported that she has a meeting scheduled on this topic but it is not for symptomatic testing. It would be great to have access to enough rapid tests to meet our needs.

Rich asked if we would be able to maintain our current policy if staff cannot get tested.

Dick Dunning said that he received the DOE letter and he read it. It was clear to him that the DOE was talking about the ConVal School District. He said that he was bothered about what he received today. It was intentional and deliberate.

**9. Public Comment**

None.

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

Kimberly Saunders certified that manifests listed totaling \$2,583,841.76 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.**

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

**a. Negotiations**

**b. Legal**

**c. Personnel**

**Stephen Ullman motioned to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 7:37 p.m. for matters of negotiations and legal.**

**Janine Lesser second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**Dick Dunning motioned to exit non-public session at 8:14 p.m. Kevin Pobst second. Unanimous.**

**Kevin Pobst motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session for 10 years. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.**

**Janine Lesser motioned to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok