

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 18, 2021

SAU Office Board Room

7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve Minutes of October 28, 2021**
- 3. Report on Budget Work Session**
- 4. Tax Rate**
- 5. Committee Reports**
- 6. Updates from the Superintendent**
- 7. Other**

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7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: John Robertson, Bill Kennedy, George Willard, Tim Theberge, Janine Lesser, Jeff Brown, Bob Marshall, Susan Peters

1. Call to Order

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes of September 23, 2021

Bill Kennedy moved to accept the minutes of September 23, 2021. Bob Marshall second. Discussion about weather, under Budget & Property Committee Reports, the stated CPI of 5.3 to 6.1% was correct. Tim Theberge stated that the official number on October 13, 2021 was 5.4%. Minutes were unanimously accepted.

3. School Board Update

Tim Theberge reported that October usually begins our slower months. The budget workshop meeting is scheduled for the first weekend in November and will be the biggest focus for the next week. Tuesday's upcoming School Board Meeting Agenda has no major new business.

Several policies will be reviewed as a result of the last legislative session. Some are in response to a monitoring report by the Department of Education. Apparently, there are six policies we are supposed to have but don't. Many school districts do not have these policies as well.

Solar panels going up soon. No firm start date but some materials have already been delivered.

A committee member asked if the budget workshop is open to the public. Tim Theberge responded: It is, but no public comment is permitted. Janine Lesser added that this is when the budget is presented to the Board.

4. Changing demographics

This year's kindergarten class is the highest in 10 years, and we haven't lost any students. It is a reversal of where we've been. We'd love this to continue. Too soon to know if this is a trend. Some of this is tricky to get at because the census is so slow. We do have a contract with a company that runs enrollment projections for us, but it is not complete yet.

A discussion of what is going on in the towns took place. Families are moving into Antrim faster than Peterborough and Dublin. Antrim has some exciting development going on. Peterborough has a

couple of condos - both are higher value. Three or four new homes being built in Temple and two houses for sale in Temple (one is asking \$150k; the other is asking \$900k). In Dublin, everyone is talking about affordable housing and apartments. In Greenfield, there are a couple of relatively small subdivisions. A discussion about affordable housing, distortion of labor costs, and inflation took place. Tim Theberge said the kindergarten increase is not evenly dispersed among towns. Family size is significantly different now. There are approximately two children per household. The 2020 census will paint a pretty picture of where we are.

5. Committee Reports

Tim Theberge reported on the below committees:

Budget and Property:

The focus of Budget and Property is on getting solar up and running, refining the Capital Improvement Plan and providing guidance on the budget.

Communication Committee

They are planning the second Community Forum to be held at the end of January. The focus will be primarily on the budget and the current status of the lawsuit and the State's response to it. We will also provide context around Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs). We will continue to hold the forums in the multipurpose room at the high school as we can livestream from there. We had 150 people watch the first forum in realtime and ~250 watch it after the fact. A committee member asked if we control the content? Tim Theberge responded: Yes, we put out a survey asking participants to rank five or six topics and provide them the opportunity to add topics. Based on the responses, we prepared presentations and then invited the public to comment. The second half of the forum was "open mic". Overall, people have been polite and civil during all meetings and often preface comments with "thank you for what you do." People are still advocating for optional use of or no masks.

Policy Committee

Most of the work for the next couple of meetings will be as a result of the last legislative session as well as those policies in the normal review cycle.

Education Committee

A lot of the work of the Education Committee often leads to Policy. The current focus is on *Learn Anywhere*, advanced coursework and alternative credit. Not too much curriculum until we get back to our regular curriculum review. Math scores are low so we took some action at the high school - Algebra I will be a graduation requirement.

Strategic Plan Committee

Subcommittees have begun meeting. We are going to do another push to encourage additional community members to join the subcommittees. Towns offered to put "call for community involvement" on their websites. The goal is to have a new Strategic Plan in place by July 21, 2021.

The Applied Technology Center (ATC) is up for renovation. The state will cover 75% of the cost and the Region is responsible for the remaining 25%. That 25% can come from donations, local employers, taxes, etc. There is a bond measure slated for March of 2023 or 2024. They need to

decide which classes to expand upon/discontinue/add. A committee member asked if employers are involved. Tim Theberge responded: Yes, but not as many as we would like and suggested selectmen follow up in their respective towns to encourage participation in this program. A committee member asked who to put interested parties in contact with. Jen Kiley is spearheading this effort (with PAC and RAC). A committee member asked if there is an LNA tract as Monadnock Community Hospital and Rivermead would be potential partners. Tim Theberge responded: Partners can contribute resources, an old ambulance, for example, can count towards the 25%. A committee member asked if there is a culinary tract. Janine Lesser responded: No, because it is too expensive to equip a kitchen. There has been a lot of conversation around career pathways and how our counseling department works with students not aimed toward a 4-year college. A ConVal student can earn one year of community college credits and only have to pay for their second year - earning an Associates Degree. A committee member asked if all students can enroll in an ATC course. Tim Theberge responded: Yes, and it may even be required to have one ATC credit. A committee member expressed that exposure helps guide students.

6. November & December Meeting Dates

A discussion took place about meeting dates for November and December with regard to District holiday closures. It was agreed that the Committee would next meet on November 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and that there would **not** be a meeting in December of 2021.

7. Other

A committee member asked when they can expect tax rates. Tim Theberge responded: They are due tomorrow to NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and added that the audit is taking longer and longer every year. A committee member asked if the audit was complete. Tim Theberge responded: Yes. A few comments about changing the fiscal year were made.

A committee member asked if the Free and Reduced Lunch applications were coming in. Tim Theberge responded that we are not receiving as many as we would like despite efforts made to encourage families to do so. Janine Lesser mentioned that she was going to look into getting some food stamp data from DHHS.

John Robertson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. George Willard second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Miskelly