

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

**CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**School Board Meeting  
Tuesday, December 21, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

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

**Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7aThvg3Xd0>**

**Minutes**

**BOARD**

Rich Cahoon, Tom Burgess,  
Keira Christian, Richard Dunning,  
Alan Edelkind, Jim Fredrickson (elect.),  
Katherine Heck, Greg Kriebel,  
Janine Lesser, Kevin Pobst,  
Liz Swan, Tim Theberge,  
Stephen Ullman

Abby Kamieniecki, Student Rep.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.  
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.  
Lori Schmidt, B.A.  
Carrie James, H.R.  
Heather McKillop, CVHS  
Deb Riley, CVHS  
Carol Young, CVHS  
Jen Kiley, ATC

**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. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A: 3, II**

Katherine Heck moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II for matters of student safety and personnel.

Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Greg Kriebel moved to exit non-public session at 8:21 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

Janine Lesser moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for student safety for a period of 10 years.

Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.

Janine Lesser moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for personnel for a period of 10 years.

Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.

**3. Points of Pride**

Kimberly Saunders shared various Points of Pride as reported to her by administration.

**4. Public Comment**

None.

**5. Consent Agenda**

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

1) December 7, 2021

**b. Personnel**

1) Co-Curricular Nominations

The Consent Agenda was adopted by the Board.

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

**a. Reopening Update**

Kimberly Saunders shared that 859 respondents resulted in the most recent survey. The survey responses were shared. Kimberly said that she needs to resubmit the plan with any changes in order to meet the requirements of ESSER.

Stephen Ullman spoke about the elimination of the yellow phase.

Discussion took place about the potential of remote days not counting as instructional days.

Rich Cahoon moved to accept the changes in the modified reopening plan. Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.

Stephen Ullman shared some of the responses reflective of people who oppose what the School District is doing. Rich Cahoon said that there is a belief that some of what the district has done is to receive federal funding. Rich said that the funds we received are restrictive in how we spend them but not related to why actions were taken.

Kimberly Saunders said that feedback that the daily emails on positive cases is too much have been received.

**Katherine Heck moved to accept the Superintendent recommendation to move information to the COVID Dashboard update section and that the link where people can find data will be placed in newsletters so that those interested can find the information.**

**Rich Cahoon second.**

Stephen Ullman said that he would rather provide too much information rather than less.

**Kevin Pobst and Stephen Ullman opposed. All others in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **b. Education Freedom Accounts (EFA's)**

Kimberly Saunders shared a presentation on Education Freedom Accounts (EFA) that are New Hampshire School Vouchers.

A more comprehensive school choice was moved toward. None of the EFA bills could pass so it was added to HB 2. RSA 194-F creates a school choice reimbursement for participants.

The statute authorizes the Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF) to administer the EFA. CSF denies that they are subject to the Right to Know Law.

The RSA diverts funds. Adequacy aid (\$3,786.66) and Differentiated Aid that is potentially diverted per student was outlined.

Qualifying expenses that the voucher or EFA can be used for was shared.

It is limited to low- and moderate-income families. An EFA student is exempt for the NH compulsory school attendance and they may not enroll full time in the local public schools.

Potential Cost Estimate for RSA 194-F:

Adequacy Aid - \$30,293.28

Differentiated Aid - \$2,037.11

Lost Aid - \$32,330.39

Rich Cahoon spoke about the importance of the actual funding loss for students that leave ConVal.

HB 607 - Vouchers:

- Is a locally funded voucher program.
- ConVal would have to provide approximately \$7,511.33
- ConVal would deposit local tax dollars into a third-party account for students participating, these would be managed by an independent scholarship organization
- Separate from the state school vouchers
- Must be adopted by the voters of the District by 60%
- Existing homeschool students would be eligible while existing private school students are not eligible
- No income eligibility requirements
- School district remains responsible for special education services

Computation of Local Education Funds was shared.

Once the baseline is set, the EFA can never go below that amount.

Adoption - A petition warrant article; a written application of 25 or more registered voters, and also the requirement of a 60% majority vote.

Rich Cahoon said that in order to prevent this from being adopted is to make the case that this will increase local taxes. Information on what the incremental cost for a student is will be valuable to voters.

Katherine Heck suggested crafting a letter and send to legislators and that the board take a vote on that.

A letter from the board was suggested.

Tim Theberge said that he is willing to provide a letter ahead of the next board meeting. Sense of the board to draft a letter was confirmed.

#### **c. Monthly Events Calendar**

The monthly events calendars for December and January were reviewed with no changes made.

#### **d. ATC Renovation State Timeline and Presentation**

Jen Kiley, ATC Director, shared an introduction on the CTE Center Renovation Process. The renovation according to NH Code of Administrative Rules was outlined.

The objective is to bring the space back to new or good condition. Making the transition from high school to post-secondary or work seamless is a goal.

The State shall fund not less than 50% nor more than 75% of the cost of a qualified project. ConVal is in the unique situation in that there are additional schools as part of the regional ATC.

The earliest we could break ground is 2025. An application must be submitted 18 months prior to the start of the biennium.

Ms. Kiley continued to share information about equipment and construction costs.

Responsibilities of the Receiving Districts were outlined.

A local majority vote is required to move forward. The value that CTE brings to our community must be shared.

The construction and renovation process highlights were outlined.

Potential programming opportunities are part of this consideration.

Health Science and also animal science or vet tech are suggested programs.

When in the timeline would an architect need to be hired? A separate renovation committee would exist for the purpose of overseeing this.

Rich Cahoon shared that we not back into a sole source design.

Kimberly Saunders said that time to talk to the DOE about the unique situation of three districts in one center is needed.

**Dick Dunning moved to recommend to approve to continue with the renovation project.**

**Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.**

#### **e. December 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment Update**

The December enrollment was referenced.

### **7. Reports**

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

None.

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

Janine Lesser reported that discussion took place about the high school communication tree. The project is on hold because Guilfoil will develop a communication plan that will provide a boost for the remaining schools to develop their communication plan.

Communication on Strategic Planning will take place by the Strategic Plan Committee.

Informing the general public on the budget is a task of the Communication Committee. The committee will work with the Superintendent to develop a series of videos on the proposed budget. They will provide short, easy access to information.

The Community Forum on January 25th was discussed.

#### **c. Strategic Plan Committee – Tim Theberge**

Tim Theberge reported that the bulk of questions that will go out to the committee were refined.

#### **d. Budget & Property Committee – Jim Fredrickson**

Jim Fredrickson reported that the preschool phase was discussed.

FY'23 budget warrant articles were discussed. Capital Improvement Plan Policy was discussed.

The SKIP program was discussed.

A proposal for a pavilion at Hancock Elementary School was also discussed.

#### **e. Policy Committee – Katherine Heck**

Katherine Heck reported that two policies come before the board tonight for a second read. Procedure DAF was reviewed this evening. Aligning federal guidelines to local policy was looked at. This will go to Budget & Property Committee.

Policy DGA will be updated and come for a first read. Work on fall update continues.

#### **f. Student Representative – Abby Kamieniecki**

Abby Kamieniecki reported that tomorrow is Student Council annual party. December 3rd was the annual blood drive. Enough blood was drawn to save 103 people's lives. Unified Basketball tied 34-34 yesterday.

### **8. Old Business**

#### **a. Legislative Update**

Tim Theberge reported that there are 938 Bills currently. Three hundred would impact school districts while others would indirectly impact.

#### **b. School Board Requests**

Kimberly Saunders reported one request outstanding for information on preschool.

#### **c. Revised Budget Discussion**

Jim Fredrickson referenced page 22 where prioritized recommendations for funding trusts were outlined.

Article 04 would be to establish and appropriate a Technology Fund; this is different than the others.

The Energy Trust Fund should be changed from \$25K to \$100K.

Rich Cahoon asked if the Energy Trust should be Article 07 and not further up because it has to take place.

Stephen Ullman shared that he had questions that might be best asked when Jim Fredrickson is in person. Katherine Heck shared information about target balances.

**Stephen Ullman moved to establish a Technology Trust Fund. Dick Dunning second.**

Rich Cahoon said that you could establish it first and then fund it too. He asked why we are also raising \$100K. It could be in the position and then fund it. For example, it can be created early on and then funded as an Article 09.

**In favor of having appropriated language: Unanimous.**

Work on purpose language will take place.

Article 05 – Appropriate to the Energy Trust Fund

**Rich Cahoon moved to move article 07 to article 05 and then adjust the figure to \$100K. Katherine Heck second.**

Discussion ensued.

Jim Fredrickson noted the word Energy and Efficiency Trust Fund would reflect other potential efficiencies for use of funds.

**Unanimous.**

Article 06 - Building Capital Reserve.

**Jim Fredrickson moved this article forward. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous**

Article 07 – Appropriate to Health Trust Fund

**Stephen Ullman moved this article forward. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.**

Article 08 – Building Capital Reserve

**Greg Kriebel moved this article forward. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.**

Lori Schmidt reported preschool was added in as voted at the last board meeting. Warrant articles were included in at a level of \$1M.

Rich Cahoon said that the percent increase is 2.11% in operating budget.

**d. Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Read/Adoption (Board Vote Required)**

- JRA: Student Records, Privacy, Family, Student Rights

Katherine Heck pulled this policy from a second read.

- GBEF: Acceptable use Policy: Staff

**Janine Lesser moved to adopt GBEF. Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.**

**9. New Business**

**a. Expenditure and Encumbrance Report – Lori Schmidt**

Lori Schmidt reported that a Connectivity Grant is in process of approval.

**Rich Cahoon moved to accept the Expenditure Report and Encumbrances therein. Katherine Heck second.**

**Unanimous.**

**10. Public Comment**

None.

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

Lori Schmidt shared certified manifests and payroll information.

**Dick Dunning moved to approve the manifests as read. Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.**

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

**a. Negotiations**

**b. Legal**

**c. Personnel**

**Janine Lesser moved to adjourn at 10:16 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok