

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Selectmen's Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**  
**SAU Office Board Room**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Present:** John Robertson (Chair-Antrim), William Kennedy (Peterborough), George Willard (Temple), Bob Marshall (Greenfield), Jeff Brown (Hancock), Stephen Ullman, Janine Lesser, Tim Theberge, Dr. Kimberly Saunders

**1. Call to Order**

**John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.**

**2. Approve Minutes of November 18, 2021**

The minutes of November 18, 2021 were accepted as presented.

**3. Communication with each town**

John Robertson said that he has had communication with each of the towns.

Tim Theberge said that all of the materials related to the proposed budget have been posted on the ConVal website. Towns can very easily link to it.

Tim reported that Jim Fredrickson, Katherine Heck, and Rich Cahoon shared presentations on Monday night about the budget and proposed preschool. It includes a "Budget 101" on district assessment, revenue, and costs. It is an excellent resource and can be found on ConVal YouTube.

The ConVal School Board website is a good resource as well as the main ConVal landing page for the website.

The Community Forum YouTube link will be posted.

The operational budget is up .65%; gross budget includes all of spending. Federal Funds are down .67% and District Assessment is down .08%

Preschool is a separate warrant article. If passed, the budget would be up 2.11%.

John Robertson said that he hoped that SAC could promote people voting in favor for preschool.

Tim Theberge said that materials are posted on the proposed preschool expansion as well.

The *Rand Study* lays out the argument on why preschool is a great thing. Spending \$1.00 now on early intervention saves \$6.00 in services later.

Stephen Ullman said that preschool is helpful to students who come from more modest circumstances.

The warrant article for the proposed preschool expansion is to increase capacity from five classrooms to eight. The expansion proposed is for four-year old students. We know of students that we will have to hold a spot for on their third birthday, regardless of when they turn three.

The Federal Government has never funded the requirement more than 16%.  
Preschool is not proposed in each town. We currently have two in Antrim, we would have two in Hancock, Greenfield and Peterborough. It has to do with where the largest needs are.

Kimberly Saunders said that the Collective Bargaining Agreement is a separate warrant article. It still does not leave ConVal to be as competitive.

John Robertson said that a question might be related to the cost for those families that send their child to preschool currently and how it compares. This is not daycare.

Tim said that our model is for every child, regardless of need, to have access to the speech, and other professional services. There are no barriers.

Kimberly said that administration has planned a phase approach to preschool over the past several years. The entire administration believed that this was so important that it should be included in the budget. It has since been moved to a separate warrant article.

Tim Theberge spoke about the trust fund warrants. He shared that there is a proposed technology trust fund article. When we went remote, ConVal was in the position and well poised with Chromebooks to facilitate the remote learning.

In addition, there is an energy efficient trust fund that will allow the buyout of the solar project on CVHS in six years.

ConVal has a Capital Improvement Plan in place. The budget can be built to address capital items or placed separately on a warrant.

Lastly, there is a Petitioned Warrant Article. There is an article to require that all curriculum materials and associated instructional materials be provided to each library in the towns.

People are entitled to these materials already. Anyone could come in and request this information. The problem is the continual upkeep in nine towns.

Kimberly said that this does not have anything to do with what they are asking for. It would require a person to be responsible for this upkeep.

Bill Kennedy said that the purpose is to burden the system.

#### **4. COVID Update**

Bill Kennedy asked what is going on in the schools.

Kimberly Saunders said that the COVID Monitoring Team will be bringing forward a recommendation at the next School Board meeting.

We continue to wear masks in schools.

Bill reported that the Monadnock Community Hospital is overwhelmed; all ICU beds are full.

Peterborough has had a mask requirement in public buildings and it is expected to continue.

Kimberly Saunders said that we have three phases and we remain in the green phase.

ConVal has to do our part to support the local hospitals who are at capacity.

Kimberly reported that she meets with the COVID Monitoring Team on Tuesdays and Thursdays to review data that includes the number of cases in our nine towns. Vaccination rates are reviewed, number of cases in the Greater Monadnock Area, and the number of positive cases in each building are focused on.

The number of students who are actually out sick is considered as well.

Kimberly said that the ConVal website is updated daily with the COVID Dashboard.

Tim Theberge said that if the COVID Monitoring Team reported that the hospitals were not full, decisions could be made.

### **5. Committee Reports**

Tim Theberge reported that the Strategic Plan Survey has been submitted out to the community for the Strategic Plan under development. There is a student survey, community survey, and parent survey. The hope is that everyone will fill the survey out.

### **6. How can SAC better assist?**

SAC could spread the survey out to help reach people who would not normally receive school information. It is posted on ConVal News, distributed through regular agenda receiving groups, and town newspapers. It would be helpful to get the word out.

### **7. Updates from the Superintendent**

### **8. Other**

Tim reported that there is no shortage of legislation pending right now that are not good for education or towns.

**Jeff Brown motioned to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. George Willard second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok