

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

**School Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 15, 2022**

***Immediately Following Public Hearings
(7:00 start time)***

Physical Location: SAU #1 Board Room

Livestream Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=th2Wdp_yBYk

Minutes

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Tom Burgess,
Keira Christian, Richard Dunning,
Alan Edelkind, Jim Fredrickson,
Greg Kriebel, Janine Lesser,
Liz Swan, Tim Theberge,
Stephen Ullman

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Mark Schaub, Tech.
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.
Carrie James, H.R.
Amy Janoch, Learning Recovery
Nicole Pease, DCS/HES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Tim Theberge called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

None.

3. Points of Pride

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

4. Public Comment

Erin Nolan, Peterborough, respectfully requested that the district consider making masks optional. She said that making masks a choice is a right choice for our district.

Jessica Seeger, Hancock, reported that she is a fan of the district. She shared information related to COVID, made comparisons to other illnesses and asked that the mask requirement be removed.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) February 1, 2022

b. Personnel

1) Retirements June 2022

a. John Reitnauer, CVHS, Athletic Director

Tim Theberge referenced the minutes of February 1st and a retirement notification. Hearing no objections, the consent agenda was adopted.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

Item 8e (Reopening Plan) was moved up on the agenda.

Rich Cahoon said that in the past two weeks, a significant fall off in positive cases around the country and state has resulted. Mask mandates have been lifted in many states as well.

In light of these facts, Rich Cahoon directed administration to prepare to move to a mask optional policy to commence March 7, 2022. Greg Kriebel second.

Stephen Ullman asked Dr. Kriebel his perspective. He added that the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics and NHDHHS has also not changed their position.

Dr. Kriebel confirmed Stephen's statements. He said that given declining rates and given the current overall lack of significant morbidity in school age students, it is reasonable to drop the mask mandate. He said that it is appropriate to make a change.

Janine Lesser asked that as part of the preparation, would our Superintendent check in with our medical advisory and staff before this is implemented.

Rich Cahoon said that he speculated that the Superintendent would speak to many people on this.

Liz Swan supported Rich's motion. It is important to focus on kids and choices and mental health, and to allow them to communicate differently.

Keira Christian echoed the same sentiments given the way the numbers have been going and vaccination rates. The opportunities have been there for those that wish to take advantage of them.

Kimberly Saunders added that our schools are extremely well ventilated.

In favor: Unanimous

a. Snow Days/Weather Events

Kimberly Saunders reported that the first three weather events have been traditional snow days. Should she discuss remote days for future snow days?

Keira Christian asked if we had additional snow days at this point would the theoretical graduation date change.

Kimberly said that June 17th is the current last day of school, which would put graduation at June 10th. But this is as it stands now and has not yet been set.

Dick Dunning wanted to make sure that the school year was not extended for students. If there is a way not to have to make these days up, that is his preference. We have two options, go remote for snow days or count hours.

The sense of the board was to continue with old fashion snow days.

b. Learning Recovery Presentation

Amy Janoch shared a presentation on Learning Recovery. She shared an update and progress made. Goals of Learning Recovery included supporting students/staff well-being, focus on acceleration and providing high-intensity tutoring.

Math and literacy coaches continue at the elementary level and middle school level. At the high school level, a math consultant will be contracted with in April and May. A plan to work with the math department in the following year is part of the plan. Before and after school programming has been introduced. There are two math tutors at the middle school and four at the high school. 70% of elementary and 100% of middle school students have benefited from tutoring and extra help.

Teachers who worked with tutors were surveyed on the impact of implementing coaching. Twelve out of seventeen teachers shared that their teaching practices have changed for the better since the start of coaching.

Teachers and tutors are monitoring grade level progress. Positive shifts have been confirmed.

Summer Academy will be offered for students entering grades 7 through 12. It will take place four days a week over four weeks, two sessions per day and will be available to all students. Work is underway to secure transportation.

Grades 1-6 will have a summer learning opportunity focusing on math, literacy, and arts residencies. It will be a four-week program, three mornings a week, on four sites, and will be available to all students (first come first served) with a class size of 15. Targeted students will be invited to participate. Work is underway to secure transportation.

Alan Edelkind asked Amy Janoch if she is satisfied with the results so far. Amy said that she won't be satisfied until everyone is at proficient. She is satisfied with solidifying who will most benefit from tutoring. Gathering data is difficult. Amy said that she needs more tutoring.

Liz Swan asked about the schools that have not any aspect of learning recovery implementation, is this a focus moving forward.

Amy Janoch said that we have eight schools to get to.

How long will learning recovery strategies be implemented? How do we see this going forward?

Amy said that this is work underway with administration to make sure they have a firm understanding of instructional practices and adding embedded professional development so that it has a long-standing impact.

Kimberly Saunders said that is dependent on funding; right now, we have ESSER funding.

Liz Swan noted that students will be targeted. What are the standards for that?

Amy Janoch said that focus on students who might be stuck on a standard or who just need to hear the instruction one more time.

Greg Kriebel said that his concern is limited space and first come first served options. The students who struggle might fall through the cracks. Will slots be allocated to struggling students? Confirmed.

This program is in addition to Title I summer programming.

Greg Kriebel asked about dates on the high school. Ann Forrest said that the high school has gone through several cycles of how they function e.g. weekly assessments, which were labor intensive.

If we wait too long to intervene, a student may have lost so much that it is difficult to catch them up.

Other districts have similarly hired coaches. Consultants are doing a review to make recommendations on where our work might be directed.

Rich Cahoon asked that this presentation be sent out to board members.

Rich said that when the population size is fewer than a hundred students it is less helpful to have percentages than raw counts. What are the targeting criteria?

The criteria are that students have not demonstrated an understanding of a particular standard. Those students get referred. If it is an entire class, they get support as well.

Rich noted that a student who was testing proficient two years ago and is not now would be a student who would benefit from tutoring. He said that these students should be the first target and could be easily moved.

Ann Forrest spoke about comparing NWEA data for students that is taking place.

Dick Dunning agreed that raw data would be more helpful and informational. If growth is seen, the strategies that tutors used might be beneficial to others.

Four students to one instructor is the model to impact change. It might be that the tutor had the impact on the change or it could be that the student had more time in math, as an example, that impacted the change.

Ann said that it is happening in math class, intervention time.

Tom Burgess asked if peer tutoring has been considered.

Tim Theberge noted that National Honor Society has tutored in the past.

Kimberly Saunders said that highly qualified tutors are important to unlocking the root cause of understanding that a peer tutor could not.

c. Turnover and Recruitment

Carrie James shared information on plans for recruitment and past turnover.

Carrie shared work conducted with an exit interview survey that began to be implemented at the end of last school year.

Data on retirements and resignations were shared. The turnover rate was shared by position and by building level. 26% of staff that left the district represented retirement and the remainder were resignations.

Forty-two people completed the survey. Survey data was shared. Resignation data was shared.

Overall satisfaction factors from surveying was shared.

Recruitment Plan & Opportunities were shared. The presentation will be shared with all board members.

d. Hancock Elementary School – Grade Configuration Information

Kimberly Saunders said that we have been advertising for a regular long-term sub and a special education long-term sub and have no qualified applicants for either position. The proposal is to combine grades 3 and 4. We have exhausted all options. Caseloads and service hours have been examined as well and shifts were not possible.

Greg Kriebel moved to accept the proposal as written. Dick Dunning second. Dick said that this is a reasonable solution for a difficult situation.

Unanimous.

e. Monthly Events Calendar

The Monthly Events Calendar was reviewed. Changes may occur after the March 8th vote.

7. Reports

a. Teacher Representative – Cheryl Jessie

None.

b. Student Representative – Abby Kamieniecki

Abby Kamieniecki reported that the sophomores won the penny wars. Spirit Week is this week. She shared the breakdown of what Spirit Week looks like.

c. Budget & Property Committee – Jim Fredrickson

Jim Fredrickson reported that there are two major facility efforts, middle school and high school renovation as well as ATC renovation. Tracking this work on one document is a goal. A building committee will soon be formed. A March 2023 Bond was discussed. An Architectural services RFP was discussed as well.

d. Equity Committee – Rich Cahoon

Rich Cahoon reported that three items were the focus; update on progress using comparative data regarding school schedules, an update on the high school schedule, and high academic expectations and equity.

State Assessment scores for districts in the Southwest part of the state were reviewed.

In terms of the high school schedule, the 2024/2025 school years are seen as the soonest any change could be implemented.

e. Policy Committee – Janine Lesser

Janine Lesser reported out on the meeting that took place just prior to tonight's board meeting.

8. Old Business

a. School Board Candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair – Q&A

Tim Theberge reported that candidates who are not currently members of the current board were invited to attend tonight's School Board meeting. Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair have the opportunity to answer questions of the standing board.

Stephen Ullman asked for a commitment for snacks and beverages by the board chair and vice chair.

Dick Dunning thanked both Tim Theberge and Janine Lesser for coming forward.

b. Legislative Update

Tim Theberge reported no shortage of legislature related to education.

c. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders reported that all School Board requests are up to date.

d. Policy 2nd Read/Adoption (Board Vote Required)

-IKF: High School Graduation

Janine Lesser moved that this policy be adopted as written. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

e. Reopening Plan

Covered above under agenda item 6.

9. New Business

a. Petitioned Warrant Article -School Board Recommendation (Board Vote Required)

Tim Theberge reported that the legal opinion on the Petitioned Warrant Articles is that because this article has a dollar figure embedded in it, the Board may vote to take a position on this article.

Stephen Ullman said that at District Meeting legal said that this is advisory.

Tim Theberge said that the \$200 makes it an appropriation and that the board may weigh in on position.

Stephen Ullman moved not to recommend this warrant article.

Greg Kriebel second.

Rich Cahoon suggested spending the \$200 anyway to publicize the ways that the community can access this information that is already available.

In favor NOT to recommend: Unanimous.

b. Appoint School District Clerk (Board Vote Required)

Janine Lesser moved to appoint Lori Schmidt as the School District Clerk.

Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

c. Expenditure and Encumbrance Report – Lori Schmidt

Lori Schmidt reported that the information was included in the packet tonight with explanations.

Rich Cahoon moved to accept the Expenditure Report and any encumbrances therein. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests listed, totaling \$2,642,508.95, 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.

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 Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 8:50 p.m. for matters of personnel. Liz Swan second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 9:06 p.m. Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for five years. Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.

Stephen Ullman motioned to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok