

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 24, 2022

**SAU Office Board Room
7:00 p.m.**

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve Minutes of January 27, 2022**
- 3. Budget Support**
- 4. Warrant Articles**
- 5. Collective Bargaining Agreement**
- 6. COVID-19 Guidelines**
- 7. Committee Reports**
- 8. Other**
- 9. Adjourn**

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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

WARRANT
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the Inhabitants of the Contoocook Valley School District consisting of the Towns of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at **ConVal High School** at 184 Hancock Rd., (Route 202 North) in Peterborough on the **eighth day of February, 2022**, next at **6 o'clock in the evening** for the first session of the Annual School District Meeting (snow date: tenth day of February next at 6 o'clock in the evening), to deliberate upon the warrant articles listed below. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended; (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended; and, (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this provision.

You are further notified to meet at the following places in the Town of your residence:

Antrim	Antrim Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Bennington	Pierce Elementary School	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Dublin	Dublin Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Francestown	Francestown Town Hall	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Greenfield	Greenfield Meeting House	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Hancock	Hancock Elementary School	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Peterborough	Peterborough Community Center	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sharon	Sharon Meeting House	11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Temple	Temple Town Hall	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

on the **eighth day of March** next for the second session of the Meeting (polls will be open for voting by official ballot at the second session)

Article 01: Operating Budget-School District-SB2

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$53,766,080? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$52,842,414 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Contoocook Valley School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 02: Accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the Contoocook Valley Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the ConVal School Board and the ConVal Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2022-2023	\$877,844
2023-2024	\$737,576
2024-2025	\$714,868

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$877,844 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 03: Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the District, if Article 02 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 02 cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Article 04: Expansion of Current Preschool Program

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$744,112 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year for the purpose of expanding the existing pre-school program? (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 05: Establish and Appropriate to Technology Trust Fund

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the Technology Trust Fund, for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining hardware, software, and services as necessary to support the use of digital equipment and technology throughout the District, and shall it raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be placed in the fund, and further to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 06: Appropriate to the Energy Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Contoocook Valley School District Energy Trust Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2022 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 07: Appropriate to the Building Capital Reserve Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to be added to the Building Capital Reserve Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2022 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 08: Appropriate to the Health Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Health Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2022 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 09: Appropriate to the Building Capital Reserve Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to be added to the Building Capital Reserve Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2022 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022, with no amount to be raised from taxation. In the event that Article 07 passes, this appropriation shall be in addition to any appropriation to the Building Capital Reserve pursuant to Article 07. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 10: Accept Reports of Agents and Auditors

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District accept the reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees, and Officers chosen?

Article 11: School Board Salaries

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District appoint the salaries of the School Board and fix the annual compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as follows: School Board Chair, \$1,500; each member, \$1,000; Treasurer, \$2,500; Deputy Treasurer, \$2,000; Moderator, \$300? (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Article 12: Petitioned Warrant Article

Shall the voters of the CONVAL Regional School District approve the following warrant article?
Whereas an educated citizenry is necessary for the effective functioning and preservation of a representative democracy and
Whereas full transparency in government is a bedrock principle for ensuring accountability in a democracy and
Whereas the primary purpose of our schools is to provide a quality education that prepares students to become active and knowledgeable citizens and productive community members and schools must provide the tools students need to acquire and develop analytical thinking skills that enable them to navigate the complexity of a modern economy and
Whereas the primary responsibility for guiding the education of children and overseeing what is being taught in our schools and classrooms falls primarily to parents/grandparents/legal guardians in conjunction with elected School Boards and appointed administrators and
Whereas taxpayers also have an absolute right to know how their educational tax dollars are being spent then therefore
Consistent with the above this article shall require that the CONVAL Regional School District School Board of Education/SAU 1 SHALL make available by September 15th of each year and as available thereafter throughout the school year ALL instructional materials, including, but not limited to, textbooks, printed matter and/or materials in electronic form used in classrooms, to the general public in libraries in each of the Towns in the CONVAL School District (PETERBOROUGH, DUBLIN, FRANCETOWN, GREENFIELD, HANCOCK, TEMPLE, ANTRIM, SHARON, AND BENNINGTON).
In addition, copies of all professional training materials provided to teachers, administrators and staff shall also be made available to the public.
The School District is hereby instructed to spend \$200 from existing budgeted funds to publicize the availability of these materials to the public.
(MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED) (SUBMITTED BY PETITION) (The ConVal School Board DOES NOT RECOMMEND adoption of this article.)

Article 13: School Board Members

To choose Contoocook Valley School District Officers as follows: Six (6) Members of the School Board; one (1) from the Town of Antrim for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Dublin for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Hancock for a term of three (3) years; two (2) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of one (1) year.