

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: SAU #1 Board Room

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTRjkskd5Nw>

Minutes

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Tom Burgess,
Keira Christian, Richard Dunning,
Alan Edelkind, Jim Fredrickson,
Katherine Heck, Greg Kriebel,
Janine Lesser, Kevin Pobst,
Liz Swan (e) , 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.
Beth Gibney, Pierce/FES
Fabi Woods, TES
Tim Conway, SMS
Dan Legro, SMS
Ben Moenter, Special Ed.
Heather McKillop, CVHS
Larry Pimental, PES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Tim Theberge called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence to recognize the people of Ukraine fighting back the oppression of Russia was held.

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. Student Representative – Abby Kamieniecki

Abby Kamieniecki reported that the Unified Basketball team will play against staff. Student Council will soon be hosting a blood drive.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) February 15, 2022

b. Personnel

1) Retirements June 2022

a. Fabiola Woods, TES Principal

Dick Dunning shared his happiness for Fabi but sadness for the District.

Stephen Ullman recognized the affection that staff and students have for Ms. Woods.

Liz Swan said that Temple has loved Fabi and she will be sorely missed.

The Consent agenda was adopted as presented.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

The Budget & Property Committee meeting was moved from March 10th to March 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

b. Recognition of Departing School Board Members

Stephen Ullman shared and read an article in the Antrim Limerick. The article was authored by Stephen and focused on the nine years that Rich Cahoon has served on the ConVal School Board. Areas that Rich has focused on during his tenure were shared. Rich's strengths in leadership, fairness, historical perspective of the district, and thoughtfulness were noted. The full article can be found in the Town of Antrim's Limerick.

c. School Board Requests

None.

8. Reports

a. Teacher Representative – Cheryl Jessie

None.

b. Communication Committee – Janine Lesser/Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported that a recap of the Community Forum was discussed. 350+ online viewers viewed the forum within several days. The first forum had 240 views.

A video on the budget was produced and released today. It talks about what students get from ConVal.

Janine Lesser reported that three additional videos will soon be released.

c. Strategic Plan Committee – Tim Theberge

Tim Theberge reported that a call to the community has gone out to participate in focus groups.

d. Education Committee – Stephen Ullman

Stephen Ullman reported that the committee recommended a health curriculum for grades 1-4. Continuity in curriculum is important.

In addition, three policies were forwarded to the Policy Committee for review.

Stephen said that he will no longer serve as Ed Chair and thanked committee members for their hard work.

e. Selectmen's Advisory Committee – Tim Theberge

The proposed budget and warrant articles were reviewed and discussed. Pending legislation that impacts education was discussed as well.

f. Policy Committee – Katherine Heck

Katherine Heck reported that seven policies will be coming forward for a first read soon.

9. Old Business

a. Legislative Update

None.

b. Reopening Plan

1) Masking and Plan Changes

Alan Edelkind moved to support the recommendation of the COVID Monitoring Team, as presented, in making masks optional in the ConVal School District. This motion also includes the adoption of the CDC guidelines in not requiring masks on our school buses. The motion, if passed, would be effective immediately.

Katherine Heck second.

Kimberly Saunders said that the COVID Team is not necessarily making that recommendation. Since the board already decided to go mask optional they did not weigh in on a recommendation.

Stephen Ullman shared a question about school bus mitigation. He said that he thought masks should be optional when a community has a low or medium risk. The motion requests masks on buses to be optional.

Tim Theberge said that the CDC dropped the recommendation to mask on public transportation. He said that there has been communication about why the board and administration took so long. The administration did not have the authority to move to a mask optional option that was maintained by the board to take certain actions.

If the motion is approved, will monitoring when students and staff arrive continue? Parents will be asked to do what they always do and monitor the health of their children at home. The district would no longer screen nor contact trace. Staff will not be asked to monitor which students should wear a mask and which should not.

Lunch time routines are 3-6 feet apart and the number of people is limited in the cafeteria. This conversation has not taken place but can be revisited.

What is the rationale for 3-6 vs. 3? The recommendation has remained at 6 feet for unmasked individuals.

Janine Lesser asked if the positivity rates go back up, or if there is a new variant, would we go back to masking and other mitigation. Tim Theberge said that would be up to the board.

If kids want to sit near each other in the cafeteria can they do that? Students are asked to sit 6 feet apart but it doesn't always happen.

Will students be at the lunch room or some other room for lunch? He heard that some students have had to eat sitting on the floor.

A question about students eating on the floor was asked about in conjunction with where students can be to eat lunch. There is a rotation for where students eat lunch.

Kimberly said this will be resolved, it is the first that it has been heard of today. No student should be eating sitting on the floor.

In favor to move to optional masking immediately: Unanimous.

Opposed: None

Masking will be optional effective immediately.

c. Default Budget

Discussed under another agenda item.

10. New Business

a. Set Out of District Tuition Rate (Board Vote Required)

The proposed Out of District Tuition Rate is \$8,831.11.

Jim Fredrickson moved to approve the out of district calculation at \$8,831.11 for the 2022-2023 school year. Dick Dunning second.

Currently, there are approximately eleven out of district students who tuition in.

Staff have a contractual tuition rate that is separate to this.

Unanimous.

b. 2022-2023 School Calendar Approval (Board Vote Required)

Kimberly Saunders reported working in conjunction with our sending schools to develop the 2022-2023 school calendar. The three districts work hard to land on an agreed calendar. Specific changes were noted.

Greg Kriebel moved to approve the calendar as submitted.

Katherine Heck second.

Greg Kriebel asked about the March 14th professional development day.

Kimberly Saunders said that several towns use our schools for election day, therefore schools are closed.

Setting the calendar is a responsibility of the School Board and not State mandated.

Unanimous.

c. Set ConVal High School Date of Graduation -Recommendation June 10th; Rain Date June 11th

Kimberly Saunders proposed Friday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m. with a June 11th rain date, and further June 12th as a secondary rain date if needed.

Greg Kriebel moved the recommendation as presented. Second.

Katherine Heck asked if Friday night is the traditional graduation night. Kimberly said that graduation has been scheduled on Friday to maximize having it outside. Assuring that graduation will occur over a specific weekend is the aim.

Unanimous.

d. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

1) ConVal High School requests authorization to accept from Heather Wragg, the following donation of \$4,000.00 for the purpose of renting a tent for the 2022 Senior Prom.

Katherine Heck moved to accept this generous gift for the purpose of renting a tent for the prom with thanks.

Dick Dunning second.

Rich Cahoon asked if the district will select the vendor. Confirmed.

This tent is much larger than anything ConVal currently owns; function style.

Unanimous with greatest thanks.

11. Public Comment

Erin Nolan, Peterborough, thanked the Board for moving to mask optional. She asked about the document provided by the Superintendent that addresses contact and quarantine.

If child is a close contact to someone who tested positive would they quarantine?

Jessica Seeger, Hancock, asked about someone not up to date on recommended vaccines that requires different treatment than those who are up to date. How will the schools implement this? She asked for the science to be explained. Ms. Seeger was asked to call the Superintendent for more information.

Alyssa Eccard, Peterborough, asked about masks required on buses, will they be required or not? They will not be required on buses.

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

Janine Lesser moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 7:54 p.m. for matters of personnel.

Katherine Heck second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Janine Lesser moved to exit Non-Public Session at 8:33 p.m. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

Janine Lesser moved to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for a period of five years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Keeping a record of total costs related to Right to Know Requests was asked.

12. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests totaling \$2,561,996.09 have been reviewed by her and found to be proper charges against Contoocook Valley School District for goods and/or services received and have been properly processed prior to their submittal to the School Board.

Jim Fredrickson moved to approve the manifests as reported. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Katherine Heck referenced a statement within the Reopening Plan. It should be updated with what was just voted and should be consistent.

Kimberly confirmed that it will be updated. Masks are optional on buses.

Jim Fredrickson moved to resolve, in an advisory, to take a position of support for the Ukrainian government and people. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

13. 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 8:39 p.m. for matters of personnel. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Janine Lesser moved to exit Non-Public session at 10:32 p.m. Alan Edelkind second. Unanimous.

Janine Lesser motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for a period of five years. Alan Edelkind second. Unanimous.

Alan Edelkind motioned to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok