

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 24, 2022

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

Minutes

Present: John Robertson (Antrim), Carole Monroe (Dublin), William Kennedy (Peterborough), Jeff Brown (Hancock), George Willard (Temple), Mike Borden (Greenfield), Tim Theberge (School Board)

1. Call to Order

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

3. Approve Minutes of February 24, 2022

Jeff Brown moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2022. Carole Monroe second. Carole Monroe amended the minutes to reflect the accurate spelling of her last name. Unanimous as amended.

4. Elect Officers

George Willard moved to nominate John Robinson to continue as Chairman of Selectmen's Advisory Committee (SAC). Jeff Brown second. Unanimous. George Willard moved to nominate Jeff Brown as Vice-Chair. Carole Monroe second. Unanimous.

5. Recap of Voting Results

Tim Theberge reported that all of the Warrant Articles passed with the exception of the Petitioned Warrant Article.

The budget passed in every town, except Greenfield, with 64% of the vote. The Collective Bargaining Agreement passed in every town; 67% favorability.

Preschool passed in seven of the nine towns. The remaining articles all passed favorably.

Antrim had an open School Board position that ran absent a candidate. Crista Salamy won as a write-in and will be returning to the board.

6. Topics for Discussion This Year

Fuel Oil was a topic of discussion. How much pre-buy do we have available?

John Robertson hoped that more participation in Strategic Plan and Education Committee could occur from SAC members. The purpose of this committee is to provide advice to the School Board.

Tim Theberge said that a Building Committee is the next big item. A bond for the district and our buildings and a second bond for the regional Applied Tech Center is in the planning. We are on the list for State Building Aid for the ATC with .75 on the dollar. A building committee is forming. Jaffrey-Rindge and Mascenic will be met with soon. There is a program advisory committee that looks at programming in terms of what is no longer needed and what programs might be needed.

Carole Monroe asked about a study on the elementary schools. Tim Theberge said that an RFI will likely go out in April which may turn into an RFP. Tim Theberge said that the board has decided to task an outside group to gather information and data on this topic. Mike Borden said that he was glad to hear that consolidation is still on the table.

The question would be what would become of the schools closed.

Tim said that the towns would have the first option for the school.

The Articles of Agreement would require 2/3's vote to pass a change to the article that would require consolidation.

An outside contractor would be hired to investigate what the data points would be to consider consolidation. Data that would support information is the goal.

Discussion took place about enrollment trends and projections.

Further discussion took place about the services that cannot be delivered because professionals are travelling the district to deliver them; windshield time takes away.

John Robertson said that his hope is that community involvement will increase in the process.

Opportunity costs, and also the savings in closing a school is important information to taxpayers. The benefits to students are important as well.

Alternative uses for schools might be affordable housing for teachers, 55+ housing, and town offices to name a few.

John Robertson and Jeff Brown will meet with Kimberly.

7. Committee Reports

Tim Theberge reported that the Budget & Property Committee is looking at building committees and bonds.

Making the public aware of bonds coming is critical.

Community Public Forums will help spread the word, likely in the August timeframe.

Getting the word out as to what is going on will be vital.

Tim shared that this district struggles with the education of math while language arts is a strength. The Education Committee is looking at this hard.

The Education Committee and Equity Committee will likely merge.

ConVal offers seventeen Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Looking at equity in AP courses has been a topic. The numbers of students who receive Free and Reduced Lunch do not access AP courses.

A lot of work of the School Board gets accomplished at the committee level.

Jeff Brown spoke about what the biggest challenge is in the School District that SAC could work toward might be. Jeff said that he has only brought information back to his town but wanted to know how SAC could move something forward.

Tim Theberge said that defining the physical plant for the district needs determination first.

Jeff Brown asked about state funding; is anyone working on that?

Tim Theberge said that it is a legislative type thing and legislators in this district are trying to cancel out public education.

Education Freedom Accounts were discussed; The State budgeted \$200K but spent several million.

Jeff Brown asked the possibility of touring the buildings to get a better sense of the district. Tim Grossi, Facilities Director, would be the contact for that effort.

Are there opportunities to align Capital Plans? Bulk purchasing to save money?

Engaging State Representatives is a task.

Bill Kennedy exited at 8:09 p.m.

The next Community Forum will take place on Thursday, May 5th.

Jeff Brown asked how the district was able to take \$16K out of the health insurance line to send the Robotic Team to Texas. A brief discussion about the ability to make line transfers took place.

8. Other

None.

9. Adjourn

Jeff Brown motioned to adjourn. Carole Monroe second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok