

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: SAU #1 Board Room

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ConValEvents>

Minutes

BOARD

Tom Burgess, Keira Christian,
Richard Dunning, Alan Edelkind,
Jim Fredrickson, Katherine Heck,
Greg Kriebel, Janine Lesser,
Crista Salamy, Liz Swan,
Tim Theberge, Stephen Ullman

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Ben Moenter, Special Ed.
Carrie James, H.R.
Heather McKillop, CVHS
Erik Thibault, CVHS
Kat Foecking, GBS

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Tim Theberge called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Points of Pride

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

3. Student Representative

None.

4. Public Comment

Katherine Heck, Greenfield, spoke on behalf of representing Friends of ConVal Athletics and thanked administration for their support to rally and find volunteers to support athletics through fundraising.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) May 3, 2022

b. Personnel

1) Resignations – June 2022

2) 2022-2023 Co-Curricular Notifications

An updated personnel listing was shared.

c. May 1, 2022 Enrollment Update

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

The meeting schedule for the months of May, June, and July were reviewed.

b. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders referenced information related to Preschool that was previously requested. Cost information was shared and how it was arrived at was shared as well.

Questions should be directed to Kimberly.

c. Research Project Notification

Kimberly Saunders referenced a research project notification that meets policy.

This project involves someone working toward an advanced nursing degree in a school setting. This relates to asthma and climate change in school aged children.

7. Reports

a. Teacher Representative – Cheryl Jessie

None.

b. Policy Committee – Crista Salamy

Crista Salamy reported three policies to come forward for a first read. Naming of Facilities policy will be discussed at Policy Committee in June. Academic Integrity and Honesty as well as Crowdfunding will be discussed in June. An all-day July Policy Work Session will soon be scheduled.

c. Food Service Committee – Dick Dunning

Dick Dunning reported that an \$86K loss was budgeted with just over \$18K actual loss this year.

In addition, increasing lunch costs at all levels was discussed.

Dick Dunning proposed at elementary \$2.55, middle school \$3.10, high school \$3.65 and adult meals to \$5.00 for lunch. Breakfast will remain as is current.

The summer lunch program will continue with ESSER funds at PES, AES, and possibly Pierce. Lunches were provided in the past to Dublin Recreation but will continue at a cost to them.

Policy JLC will go to the Policy Committee with no recommended changes. Policy JLCF is under nurse review.

Tim Theberge read the proposal to increase meals to elementary \$2.55, middle school to \$3.10, high school to \$3.65 and adult meals to \$5.00 for lunch.

Dick Dunning moved to increase the meal prices as presented. Liz Swan second. Unanimous.

d. Budget & Property Committee – Jim Fredrickson

Jim Fredrickson reported that proposals for conceptual design for the middle schools and high school were discussed. Three submittals have come in and will be reviewed.

e. Education Committee – Stephen Ullman

Stephen Ullman reported that Amy Janoch presented on the Learning Recovery Program at the high school. Additional students and tutors are needed.

In addition, Terri Drogue, Director of School Counseling, brought a recommendation forward to implement two programs through Perkins Grant and other funding at no additional expense.

There is strong support of the ConVal School District Professional Development Plan as proposed.

Stephen Ullman moved support for career platform Awato and Xello. Tom Burgess second.

Greg Kriebel asked if Xello and Awato are comparable to Naviance. The new software programs provide what Naviance does and more.

Unanimous.

8. Old Business

a. Legislative Update

Tim Theberge said that the following information is provided to keep the public informed.

Katherine provided information.

SB 233: Water bottle filling stations.

SB 236: Committee to study and address NH teacher shortages

SB 238: MOU between charter schools and public schools for the provision of special education

SB 350: DOE to adopt rules for background checks.

SB 353: adds Instructional Specialists and others to the professional Standards Board.

SB 410: Public comment periods at school board meetings and meetings of the SBOE

SB 421: Payments to the Community College System for dual and concurrent enrollment students

SB 234: Student identification cards to include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

SB 420-FN-Local: establishes an extraordinary need grant for schools and additional money for students receiving special education services

Amendment 1925h: Expanding the tax credit scholarships eligibility to 500% of the federal poverty level- or @ \$138,000 for a family of four.

SB 381: which will establish the office of the Special Education Advocate

SB 394: which extends the definition of a child with a disability as eligible to age 22.

HB 1135: Financial audit of the DOE and the Education Freedom Account Program.

HB 1236: Reestablish the legislative oversight committee for education

HB 1244: written consent for medical or dental treatment provided in a school setting.

HB 1311: adds prohibitions of persons convicted of first-degree assault, or possession of a controlled drug with the intent to sell, from employment in a public school

HB 1367: Civics exam for graduation require a 70% or higher grade of passing naturalization exam - requires a grade of 70% or higher has passed.

HB 1663: Simplify homeschooling statutes for parents and notifications to school districts.

SB 329: Commission to study barriers to specific housing development in NH - watching because it addresses tax caps for local school districts.

SB 400: relative to zoning and planning boards, affordable housing- HB1393 involves school district budget caps.

HB 1132: relative to applications for a charter conversion school was on the regular calendar

HB 1195: relative to public comment periods at Board meetings, SAU meetings and meetings of the SBOE. - went to committee of conference; no decision yet.

HB 1639: Youth Risk Behavior Survey bill. 14 days' notice prior to administration

HB 1661: relative to CTE agreements, schedules, calendars and integrated curriculum - had many bills attached and is in committee of conference.

HB 1417: relative to the 7.5% retirement contribution by the state was tabled infused into another bill - passed the house; senate passed and tabled. Going back to committee.

(**HB 1221**) "one time only" amendment

HB 1431: Parents Bill of Rights - went to conference and has not been agreed upon.

b. 2nd Read/Adoption (Board Vote Required)

- DID: Fixed Assets

Janine Lesser moved to adopt this policy as presented. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.

- FA: Facilities Development Goals/Priority Objective

Janine Lesser moved to adopt this policy as presented. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.

- FAA: Annual Facility Plan

Janine Lesser moved to adopt this policy as presented. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.

- FE: Facilities Construction

Janine Lesser moved to adopt this policy as presented. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.

- JLCJA: Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries

Janine Lesser moved to adopt this policy as presented. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.

9. New Business

a. 1st Read Policy

- DJE: Bidding Requirements

- JLCJ: Concussions and Head Injuries

Tim Theberge referenced the above two policies for a first read.

Katherine Heck asked about the increased threshold to \$20,000 in DJE. Crista Salamy reported that this policy was reviewed and amended at a previous Policy Committee meeting.

Katherine Heck referenced other information that requires consideration with this discussion.

Dick Dunning said that this should go back to Budget & Policy Committee and back to the Board.

Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

b. Expenditure and Encumbrance Report

Lori Schmidt referenced the Expenditure and Encumbrance Report. Budget Transfer requests will be coming forward. Trust reimbursement will also be forthcoming.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the Expenditure and Encumbrance Report. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

c. Town Payments

Lori Schmidt referenced information about apportionment. A schedule of payment was also referenced.

Stephen Ullman said that the payment schedule reflects equal payments from a town throughout the year.

Katherine noted that the schedule will change and likely not be the same. It starts off higher historically and goes down. It is a way for towns to stabilize their tax flow. It is a mandatory payment and not optional. Tim Theberge said that ConVal sets the payment schedule and it could be done other ways e.g. quarterly, semi-annually etc.

Jim Fredrickson said that the next series of budget discussion should begin on this and the story told.

Taxpayers do not pay until December on what was voted in March.

d. Fund Balance Discussion

Lori Schmidt said that returning \$250K was discussed and was increased based on projected return. This needs to be discussed again. Should it be left at \$250K or changed based on projected return of fund balance?

Jim Fredrickson asked the projected fund balance. Lori Schmidt said that an estimate would be approximately \$1 million dollars returned.

Katherine Heck shared that a big downward trend on the school side of the tax bill was a result of a large unexpected return of funds to the towns. We will not have the same dollars to give back. Spikes and dips in the budget should be considered.

Dick Dunning shared his concern with the funds that are returned. The parking lot at the high school needs work. Meeting the district needs in terms of safety should be considered.

Kimberly Saunders said that the parking lot was designed and planned to have an additional level of pavement. Problems from an ADA place are concerning. We do have to give back what was estimated to the towns.

Katherine Heck moved to consider returning \$500K and that we consider a conversation toward the end of June when closer estimates of fund balance will be better known.

Kimberly Saunders asked for confirmation that the intent is to use \$500K to return to the towns.

Katherine confirmed that was her intention.

Greg Kriebel second.

Janine Lesser asked for clarification.

Katherine said that historically you would estimate on the higher side. Making a commitment to the towns to ease is the intent.

Stephen Ullman asked Lori Schmidt how comfortable she was with this proposal but then withdrew his question.

Tim Theberge said that our standing practice is to return a minimum of \$250K and Katherine's proposal it to double that. The motion is to use \$500K to adjust payments between July and December. **Unanimous.**

Tim Theberge said that the board grants the Superintendent the authority to hire without waiting for board approval as the year end approaches.

Janine Lesser moved to give the Superintendent hiring authority between now and July 31st.

Dick Dunning shared his concern that the board will still be meeting in June.

Kimberly said that the ramp up in hiring is the reason.

Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

Greg Kriebel said that the middle school dance was scheduled on June 10th which is the same night as graduation. He asked if there was a district calendar and if not, he said that there should be one.

Kimberly Saunders said that we do have a District Calendar. Events were not in place for so long and not checking the master calendar may have been the cause.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests totaling \$2,512,775.78 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 read. 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 for legal, student, and personnel at 8:16 p.m.

Liz Swan second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 9:34 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

Stephen Ullman motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for a period of five years. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Stephen Ullman moved to direct administration to set calculator for payouts at 260 days. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Greg Kriebel motioned to approve the personnel item discussed in Non-Public Session. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning motioned to authorize the Superintendent to adjust raises for administrators. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 9:36 p.m. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok