

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 26, 2022

SAU Office Board Room
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: John Robertson, Jeff Brown, George Willard, William Kennedy, Carole Monroe, Mike Borden, Tim Theberge, Janine Lesser, Dr. Kimberly Saunders

1. Call to Order

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes of April 28, 2022

Jeff Brown motioned to approve the minutes of April 28, 2022. John Robertson seconded. John Robertson, Bill Kennedy, and George Willard abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

3. Charter school and ConVal

John Robertson asked how the charter school will impact ConVal. Kimberly Saunders said that it remains to be seen. We do know that they have about 70 children from the nine towns. Approximately half have not been ConVal students; either homeschooled, charter, or elsewhere. When a student is outside of the district, there is no adequacy. The charter school is a public school. A better understanding from the State will be known soon. We are responsible for special education costs for all of these children even though we will not be receiving funding for them from the State. Students were accepted by lottery. Some of the students have extensive needs. The potential to look at funding a new position to manage those services to assure that they happen. ConVal is responsible. Finally, transportation is very clear. Transportation allows any student who attends a school in your district to be transported as all other students. Peterborough students, K-4, are allowed transportation. Private schools in the district are allowed to access transportation. Fifth grade students can be transported from those schools that feed into South Meadow School at the same time as other ConVal students. Students outside of Peterborough, would not be afforded transportation.

Kimberly referenced RSA 189:6 that provides the guidance. We will still receive federal IDEA dollars.

John Robertson said that the impact on ConVal is money and special education services.

Kimberly said that Charter School students receive more adequacy than more traditional public school students.

What is the real benefit of a charter school? Every school has a purpose. If there are enough students that will benefit from this education, it is another option for students. What hasn't worked is when charter schools take funding away from their local schools.

In New Hampshire, the State has yet to meet its obligation to public schools. They are not meeting it. The average cost of an education is about \$18K. We get \$3,700. Now they layered in charter schools and are not meeting their obligations. They have put vouchers on top of it surpassing the initial estimate, which is millions of new dollars. The state raided funds so that it did not impact anyone's taxes in an election year. It's coming. This district is trying to do what it can to draw attention to this.

Tim Theberge said that for thirty years we have been shorted down to 7% on retirement contributions from the state.

We have "School Choice" but what we really have is "Parent Choice" which is an opportunity to move wealth around. It is okay to have a choice but in order to do it well you have to meet your obligations first at base.

The transparency and accountability is not the same for these schools as traditional public schools.

Taxpayers wind up paying for all of it causing even more of a stretch on resources.

Consolidation to maximize resources would be helpful.

4. School Board report

Tim Theberge reported that the Strategic Planning effort is underway. Getting it into draft format toward a final version is underway. The next Community Forum will be dedicated to the Strategic Plan. The best plan is one that has strong community involvement.

The Budget & Property Committee continues to fine tune the Capital Improvement Plan. Bids were opened to look at the middle schools and high school for renovation.

The Education Committee is looking at math, math scores, and improving math.

The Equity Committee continues to look at scheduling and other factors that impact what pathway kids tend to end up on.

Communications met recently to hold their Community Forum.

All spaces for preschool are set to be filled, the demand is there. The hardest part is finding staffing.

The lack of affordable housing was touched on.

5. Legislative report

Tim Theberge reported that the parent bill of rights failed by five votes. 171 thought it was a good idea. The Senate passed it and the House sent it back. The Speaker refused to file the Committee of Conference Report that did not recommend the bill. They appointed people they knew who would favor the bill onto the committee and voted to adopt it. The Governor threatened to veto the bill, others followed but 171 still voted in favor.

This is a great Civics education.

Public Comment periods are still required at School Board meetings. Individuals will be allowed three minutes.

The retirement funding results in a one-time payment of 7.5% this year. HB1417 is the bill. HB1221 infused resulting in this one-time payment.

6. Graduation

ConVal High School graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m. The rain dates are Saturday and Sunday as well.

7. Summer schedule

Tim Theberge reported that the School Board will only hold one meeting in July and no other subcommittee meetings.

John Robertson asked the preference for SAC meetings.

Skipping June and July was suggested and waiting to meet until August.

Kimberly Saunders asked John Robertson to develop a timeline of information that this committee wants to know more about so that she can prepare.

8. Other

None.

9. Adjourn

Bill Kennedy motioned to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. George Willard seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok