

# OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road

Peterborough, New Hampshire

## CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

### School Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 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,  
Kevin Pobst, Crista Salamy,  
Liz Swan, Tim Theberge,  
Stephen Ullman

#### ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.  
Tim Grossi, Facilities  
Mark Schaub, Technology  
Carrie James, H.R.  
Lori Schmidt, B.A.  
Larry Pimental, PES  
Jen Kiley, ATC  
Heather McKillop, CVHS  
Stephanie Syre-Hager, AES  
Kat Foecking, GBS  
Tim Conway, SMS

#### 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Tim Theberge called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### 2. Points of Pride

Kimberly Saunders shared various Points of Pride as shared with her by administrators.

#### 3. Student Representative

##### a. Student Presentation

Kimberly Saunders introduced ConVal student, Fletcher Maggs, and teacher, Lance Levesque, who won the top prize at the New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival for the documentary titled "Everest to End Duchenne".

Lance Levesque reported that Fletcher Maggs has worked with him for four years.

Fletcher's final film was submitted to the NH Film Festival and won. Fletcher's film was shared.

Lance shared his thanks for the support of the community and for the support the CTE receives making this possible.

NH's High School number one filmmaker is Fletcher Maggs. Fifty-six hours of footage resulted in the 7-minute film.

What is the most important experience as a high school student? Fletcher replied saying that the first day of having a camera in his hand in Photo/Video I.

#### 4. Public Comment

Jessie Marcum, Dublin, shared concern about decisions made lately. His concerns were related to the lack of preschool at Dublin Consolidated School (DCS) and the decision to continue with the dual principal model at DCS. Mr. Marcum shared concern about the mechanism about how these decisions are made; in particular how decisions are made about where preschools are located. In terms of the dual principal role, he said that he is concerned that the position continuing as is will fail.

#### 5. Consent Agenda

##### a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) May 17, 2022

##### b. Personnel

1) Resignations – June 2022

2) Nominations - 2022-2023

An updated list in the form of an addendum for personnel was shared with the board.

The consent agenda was adopted as presented.

Kimberly Saunders introduced Richard Simoneau, CVHS Assistant Principal nominee.

**Katherine Heck moved to approve the nomination as read. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.**

Shawne Hilliard - Community Principal for HES/DCS. Ms. Hilliard shared her experience and excitement for joining ConVal in this capacity.

**Katherine Heck moved to accept this nomination. Liz Swan seconded. Unanimous.**

Tim Iwanowicz - Teaching Principal at TES.

**Liz Swan moved to accept the nomination. Dick Dunning seconded. Katherine Heck abstained. All others in favor.**

## **6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business**

### **a. Monthly Events Calendar**

The monthly calendars for June and July were reviewed with no changes.

### **b. School Board Requests**

School Board requests were discussed. One outstanding aside from the website.

## **7. Reports**

### **a. Teacher Representative – Cheryl Jessie**

None.

### **b. Policy Committee – Crista Salamy**

Crista Salamy reported having met prior to tonight's board meeting. Optional policies were discussed. One will be coming for a first read with a second policy going to legal for review.

### **c. Communication Committee – Janine Lesser/Alan Edelkind**

Janine Lesser reported that the committee met and reviewed the results of the Community Forum. 204 views have occurred post forum. For the next forum, the Strategic Plan will be the topic. Reaching out further to the community was discussed at local watering spots to introduce themselves and discuss what is going on in the community. Legislation was discussed which led into the potential to build a coalition. Additional communication possibilities were also discussed.

### **d. Strategic Plan Committee – Tim Theberge**

Tim Theberge said that drafting of the plan is underway. Contributions will be added to finish the plan. Tim thanked the administration for pushing this along.

### **e. Equity Committee – Liz Swan**

Liz Swan reported that ways to make the work of equity more efficient by breaking it into committees was discussed. The Strategic Plan goals will be reviewed around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will take place.

### **f. Selectmen's Advisory Committee – Tim Theberge**

Tim Theberge reported interest in the relationship between ConVal and the new charter school in town. Legislation pieces were discussed as well. The summer schedule was discussed. Selectmen's Advisory Committee is engaged and the hope is that they will provide input on the Strategic Plan.

## **8. Old Business**

### **a. Legislative Update**

Tim Theberge reported that several items were passed that will impact education. What gets approved or vetoed by the Governor will come next.

### **b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Read/Adoption (Board Vote Required)**

- JLCJ: Concussions and Head Injuries

**Stephen Ullman moved this policy as presented. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.**

## **9. New Business**

### **a. 1<sup>st</sup> Read Policy**

- BIE: Board Member Indemnification

- EHB: Data/Records Retention

- JLCG: Exclusion of Students Who Present a Hazard

The above three policies were referenced for first read. Please review and provide comments to Crista Salamy.

### **b. Town Payments**

Lori Schmidt reported on town payments.

**Jim Fredrickson moved to approve the FY'23 District Apportionment. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.**

Kimberly Saunders said that this is preliminary and it does not mean that this is all that will go back.  
**The payment schedule was approved unanimously.**

#### **c. Possible Coordination with other Districts/Boards on Legislative Activity**

Tim Theberge said that there has been no shortage of legislative activity impacting education. Strength in numbers is evident through a recent letter related to CTE funding for renovations planned.

Creating a synergy on legislative proposals was brought up. The potential to find other boards who might be interested in similar conversations would be sought. Sharing a strategic alignment would be of interest.

Katherine Heck said that this is a wonderful idea. Trying to find one parameter may be challenging.

SAU 8 has an active working group. They meet and work collaboratively with NHSBA.

This is more of a grassroots effort to make sure that School Boards haven't completely turned advocacy over and to add weight to testimony.

This would be a working group that would partner with NHSBA to allow this board to react to it sooner.

**Dick Dunning moved that Tim Theberge and the Superintendent move forward with this suggestion and bring it back to the full board.**

**Greg Kriebel seconded the motion.**

**Unanimous.**

#### **d. Therapy Dog**

Tim Theberge referenced a proposal for a therapy dog at Peterborough Elementary School (PES).

Kimberly Saunders said that this started prior to the pandemic. PES has been waiting to pilot this. This has her enthusiastic support.

Larry Pimental, PES Principal, reported that this was presented in January of 2020 to the Education Committee. The pandemic has only amplified the need for a therapy dog.

Shannon Dunning and a representative from Cold Springs were present.

Larry Pimental said that students have a variety of stresses in their lives. PES would like to use a therapy dog to help.

Research has shown that therapy dogs reduce stress levels and anxiety and increase positive moods.

Larry said that he is asking the board to permit PES to pilot with a dog, not everyone's dog, but one from birth to be a therapy dog at PES. The plan is to go slow and steady to assure success. Staff have been surveyed on this topic with 100% in favor of having a certified dog in the school. They imagine a time where students will benefit from this support.

Melissa Saari, Cold Springs, reported having dogs in multiple schools. The dog is trained and many hours result before qualifying.

**Stephen Ullman moved the adoption to allow a therapy dog at PES. Kevin Pobst seconded the motion.**

Liz Swan asked for more information about what situations a therapy dog would be used.

Melissa Saari said that a group of puppies would be temperament tested and one would be selected. The dog might greet one day a week. The students would see the pup grow. The dog would be trained every single day. As a greeter they are learning the chaos of the bus. The dogs are taught to be fun and goofy.

The dog would be in school at an increasing rate that is appropriate for the age of the dog and other factors.

Jim Fredrickson asked who covers the cost. Ms. Saari said that it does not cost anybody anything, they are a 401-3C.

They are funding through grants. The maintenance costs are covered by the handler.

Tom Burgess asked if there has been experience at the elementary school level. Ms. Saari said that kids will read a story to a dog because they don't judge the ability of the reader.

Larry Pimental said that the dog is really like a valued staff member.

Crista Salamy asked what happens to the dogs outside of school during vacation time. Ms. Saari said that it would be returned to her until fully trained. Once trained, the handler would take ownership of the dog.

What happens if a child is phobic to dogs? Ms. Saari shared a situation where the dog meets with a group of students who have been bitten by a dog.

Katherine Heck said that after the previous discussion with the board, the need for a policy was discussed.

Kimberly Saunders said that there is a policy about animals in schools. We may find that we need more.

Greg Kriebel asked if this was successful would it be open to other schools. Kimberly said that would be up to the building principals and that there would have to be a handler.

**Unanimous.**

#### **10. Public Comment**

**Kevin Pobst moved to waive policy to allow a second speaker in public comment. Katherine Heck second. Unanimous.**

Jessie Marcum shared his enthusiasm for the new principal for DCS and HES. He wants to be sure that the board understood the difficulty of the position. In addition, he suggested that the board visit local ice cream stands to meet with constituents as well.

#### **11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)**

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests listed totaling \$4,495,215.05 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 presented. Jim Fredrickson seconded. Unanimous.**

Proposed NH SBA Resolution -

Alan Edelkind suggested a proposed resolution related to school safety. Tim Theberge read the proposed resolution (see attached).

**Greg Kriebel moved to go forward with the proposed resolution. Kevin Pobst seconded.**

Katherine Heck suggested time to digest this. The deadline is June 15th.

Katherine wanted to expand the second "Whereas statement to include more than social media platforms". Simply threats to schools should be stated.

**Unanimous.**

The resolution will go with Katherine Heck for inclusion in NHSBA Resolutions.

#### **12. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A: 3, II (If Required)**

**a. Negotiations**

**b. Legal**

**c. Personnel**

**Janine Lesser moved to enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II for matters of personnel, safety and security, and negotiations at 8:26 p.m. Liz Swan second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

**Dick Dunning moved to exit Non-Public Session at 9:20 p.m. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.**

**Kevin Pobst moved to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for a period of 5 years. Keira Christian seconded. Unanimous.**

**Kevin Pobst motioned to approve the CVAA for 2022/2023 school year. Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous.**

**Kevin Pobst moved to approve posting a position for a district-wide Assistant Principal. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.**

**Stephen Ullman motioned to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. Liz Swan seconded. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok