

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 25, 2022

SAU Office Board Room
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: John Robertson, George Willard, William Kennedy, Diane Callahan, Janine Lesser,
Dr. Kimberly Saunders

1. Call to Order

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

2. Approve Minutes of May 26, 2022

Passed over.

3. School Opening

Kimberly Saunders reported that today was the first day back for teachers. State mandated training was offered today. An extra day in the contract was negotiated for this purpose. Tomorrow is a building day for preparation. Monday is an additional day for mandated training. Tuesday is classroom prep day. Students come back on Wednesday, August 31st.

In terms of CDC guidelines, there are no plans for COVID testing.

Do we have enough bus drivers? Always low on bus drivers. Now there is the added responsibility of transporting Sharon and Peterborough students to Lionheart Charter School.

ConVal and Lionheart are working together on the topic of transportation and the calendar.

How many ConVal students are attending Lionheart? Seventy students of which approximately 40 previously attended ConVal schools and 30 who have not.

Lionheart has requested that students outside of Sharon and Peterborough be transported.

That is outside of the RSA, nor possible for ConVal. Parents/guardians can transport students to a Peterborough bus stop to be transported the remainder of the way.

ConVal is responsible for special education services, Lionheart will receive funding but the cost will fall on ConVal.

Charter Schools are public schools. The State is not meeting their obligation to them either.

\$3,766.00 is the amount ConVal receives from the state per pupil. Charter schools receive more to the tune of approximately \$9,000.

4. Staffing (Are We Okay?)

Kimberly Saunders reported that we are not in as bad of shape as other districts. We have eleven professional openings e.g. teachers, school psychologists etc. We are also in need of paraprofessionals.

Harder positions to fill include math positions, a biology teacher and a chemistry teacher.

Kimberly shared the number of open positions across the state. It was staggering.

Why? The pandemic likely sped up the anticipated crisis. But, across the country, support is not what it once was for teachers. The amount of respect is lacking for pay received.

How does teacher pay compare to surrounding states? Vermont has significantly better pay but pay is much higher in Massachusetts.

New Hampshire is consistently in the top five in student achievement. New Hampshire is typically in the low 40's of the 50 states for teacher support.

5. School Board Report

Janine Lesser reported that on Tuesday night the Board will hold a special meeting for goal setting and evaluation.

The individual committees have begun to resume meetings. The Policy Committee recently held an all-day policy workshop.

The Education Committee sent the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) first 8 weeks of school curriculum to the board for approval which passed unanimously.

Budget & Property recommended items to go forward to the board; a safety audit, improvement plan, high and middle school renovation plans and budget guidance for administration for 23/24 budget development.

The Strategic Plan will go to the public at the end of September; feedback is asked.

Bill Kennedy asked for an update on PES HVAC. Kimberly Saunders reported that there was a big push; she agreed to double check and report back.

John Robertson said that he would like to attend Tuesday's meeting and learn more about School Board goals so that SAC might know how they can work better together.

6. Other

Bill Kennedy asked if everyone is familiar with the School Resource Officer (SRO).

Why do we need one? An SRO is about community policing. With increased violence towards school, it is a concern. Having someone who is familiar with the building and well acquainted with staff is a positive. Having an officer as a resource for students is a benefit. The officer is an employee of the town and they become an SRO and remain an officer with the town.

Bill said that he has been convinced that if it is done right, it is a positive. He should be guided by the principal at the high school.

Kimberly said that this is not about discipline. We don't need increased law enforcement at the high school.

A 75/25 split allows this officer to work for the town when school is not in session. The district pays for this position. ConVal would reimburse the Town of Peterborough.

This is a great opportunity to change the negative image that some may have of law enforcement.

7. Adjourn

Bill Kennedy moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. George Willard seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok