

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Selectmen's Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, September 22, 2022**

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

**Agenda**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve Minutes of May 26, 2022**
- 3. Approve Minutes of August 25, 2022**
- 4. School Administrative Goals**
- 5. School Board Goals**
- 6. School Board Subcommittee Reports**
- 7. Other**
- 8. Adjourn**

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

**CONTOOCOOK 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

**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