

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.

Minutes

Present: John Roberson, Jeff Brown, George Willard, William Kennedy, Carole Monroe, Michael Borden, Alan Edelkind, Janine Lesser, Kevin Pobst

1. Call to Order

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes of May 26, 2022

Jeff Brown moved to approve the minutes of May 26, 2022. William Kennedy seconded. Unanimous.

3. Approve Minutes of August 25, 2022

William Kennedy moved to approve the minutes of August 25, 2022. Mike Borden seconded. Unanimous.

4. School Administrative Goals

Janine Lesser referenced the School Administration Goals. She said that it is important for Selectmen's Advisory Committee (SAC) to know how we go about our goal setting.

The goals are based on five domains of effective leadership. Janine Lesser shared information that supports how goals are determined and set.

The process is that individual schools review data from their past year e.g. testing results, student performance in other domains, discipline etc. Goals are set from this information. They identify areas of concern or opportunities for growth. They meet with colleagues to determine larger goals by level e.g. elementary, middle, and high school. Goals are finalized into SMART goals. The goals are presented to the board for feedback. These goals aim the development of School Board goals.

Janine Lesser reviewed the goals by each level. They focused on improving reading, math, and social emotional learning. The goals are aggressive.

What will change to bring about the ability to meet these goals? Coaching and refocusing how math instruction is delivered. Intense coaching of teachers will take place to bring a level of high fidelity in the instruction.

ESSER III funds that the federal government provided for learning recovery were used to invest in coaching resources.

How much has COVID had an impact on the numbers as they sit now? Not much.

What COVID did was slow everything down. But, the concern with math has been present for a long time. ConVal fared better than some.

The shortage of teachers has an impact now. Some teachers have left, there are a smaller number of teachers coming out of college, and this will impact.

Social Emotional Learning is a goal at the elementary level through implementation of "The First Eight Weeks of School" curriculum. This curriculum will be used throughout the school year. It had been piloted but it was standardized and will be used across the district.

Middle School Goals were developed in the areas of reading, math and student discipline.

MTSS is a series of support that wrap around a student who is experiencing discipline issues.

High school goals were set in the areas of math, social/emotional, and culture, climate and connections. The mental health and well-being of teenagers as a result of COVID has been a topic of discussion. One example to improve the culture at the school is the implementation of the e-hall pass system.

The Superintendent's Goals were shared that included a behavioral system approach, math, and an equity audit to post and implement.

5. School Board Goals

After the Superintendent goals are approved, the board sets goals.

Alan Edelkind outlined the School Board goals on District Safety, District Reconfiguration, Supporting Administration Academic Goals, and to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to all opportunities for students in the district.

In terms of safety, a School Resource Officer has been engaged as an employee and officer of the Peterborough Police Department. They deal with internal issues and is a law enforcement individual. They are not a disciplinarian. He is full-time at the high school.

Communication and relationship building are part of the responsibilities.

In addition, a Safety Audit by an outside firm will be contracted to audit our safety plans and make recommendations.

A goal related to District Reconfiguration is in place. An RFI/RFP process is underway with no great response. Looking at the best use of resources for the entire educational system will be reviewed. The budget and the resources are colliding at a difficult pace. It is also part of the Strategic Plan. Janine Lesser shared information about rolling out the Strategic Plan to the public for input before it is finalized and put into place.

How can the Selectmen's Advisory Committee help support the district in terms of goals? Janine Lesser shared her appreciation for this question and said that the support of SAC is important to the School Board. The Board will let SAC know how they can help moving forward.

School Board meetings are live streamed and recorded and can be viewed at later times.

Kevin Pobst suggested getting the draft Strategic Plan to SAC for their October meeting.

The Community Forum is another opportunity to get valuable information, both in person and remotely, and interact with the board. The Strategic Plan and Renovation Projects are the next topics of the upcoming forum.

SAC could help promote community involvement for the upcoming topics e.g. reorganization to allow two-way feedback.

Bill Kennedy suggested a community task force for this purpose.

An outside organization is being sought to do this work. Community involvement is important. Finding the right people to do this work is critical. Knowing what the gains are in education progress will become apparent. It is a positive, not a negative, to look at what the best educational experience is for children. Looking at what the ideal education would look like rather than looking at what we already have should be considered.

6. School Board Subcommittee Reports

Passed over.

7. Other

Passed over.

8. Adjourn

Jeff Brown motioned to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Bill Kennedy seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok