

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Immediately Following a Public Hearing that begins at 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, Greg Kriebel,
Janine Lesser, Kevin Pobst,
Crista Salamy, Doug Sutherland,
Liz Swan, Stephen Ullman

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Stephanie Syre-Hager, AES
Larry Pimental, PES
Carrie James, H.R.
Tim Iwanowicz, TES
Heather McKillop, CVHS
Jennifer Kiley, ATC

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Janine Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Points of Pride

Kimberly Saunders shared various Points of Pride as reported to her by administration. In addition, she shared that the opening of school went well and that SAU administration visited each of the schools on opening day.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) August 16, 2022

b. Personnel

1) Nominations

2) 2022-2023 Co-Curricular Notifications

The consent agenda was accepted.

Jim Fredrickson asked how many open instructional positions exist in the district.

Kimberly Saunders reported that a math teacher at CVHS, science teacher at CVHS, Chemistry, Spanish and a Special Education Case Manager are needed.

GBS needs a Special Education Teacher and .6 FTE

A Math Teacher at SMS is needed and are being interviewed.

A Grade 2 position at AES.

CVES needs a Physical Education position and there is one preschool position.

In addition, a school psychologist is needed. There are two finalists for the student information coordinator.

5. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders noted that there is one request outstanding.

b. Monthly Events Calendar

A Strategic Plan Committee meeting is needed. The document will be shared and comments will be shared with the Superintendent.

The Equity Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 27th at 5:00 p.m.

c. September 1st Enrollment Update

Stephen Ullman noted Frankestown Elementary School having an enrollment of 42 and Temple Elementary School with 31 students K-4.

Dick Dunning asked for clarification at TES. Grade 4 has 5 students with one teacher and one para.

Kimberly shared that the para is not currently at TES and rather at PES where there was a need.

Dick asked what options might be in mind. Kimberly reported that she would be meeting with Tim Iwanowicz for further discussion.

Jim Fredrickson asked about preschool enrollment. What is the projection? We are down one teacher.

We have one additional teacher over last year.

d. CTE Audit Presentation

Kimberly Saunders reported receiving notification that we would be the recipients of a New Hampshire State Office for Civil Rights (NHSOCR) CTE Review. We have not had a review. We welcome the review.

Jennifer Kiley, CTE Director, shared a presentation. This was a State review and not a federal review. Three visits occurred in May just at ConVal and not Conant or Mascenic. The goal was to make sure that ConVal was complying with federal laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin sex, disability and age.

Why was the Region 14 ATC selected? ConVal had not been audited in 20 years. Jen Kiley shared insight about antiquated data used by the State.

Of the findings, an Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination should be present in publications annually. This has been corrected and is on the website, student handbook, and program of studies, among other.

The Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination was the second finding.

Issue three was in the area of Designation of Compliance Coordinators. It can now be found in multiple places on our websites.

Other issues included the Grievance Process, Services for Students with Disabilities.

Accessibility for Students with Disabilities included parts of the physical plant, mainly in the parking lot. Gaps in accessible travel may be no larger than ¼".

Jen Kiley recommended a review of the parking lot to address all issues.

Other physical plant accessibility for students were cited.

The parking lot was discussed.

The ConVal High School parking lot was a previous warrant article in the past and was defeated.

The parking lot has been an issue for quite some time. The board has not taken a stand to get this work done. An engineering study as a result of change in compliances is needed.

Kimberly Saunders thanked Jen Kiley who has put in an enormous amount of work prepping for the visit, arranging for the correct people to meet with the visitors, and put this report together. An estimate of the number of hours for this audit was shared in terms of effort and time.

Jim Fredrickson asked how many audits like this are done yearly and how did ConVal's scores fair. Kimberly reported that these audits have just begun.

Dick Dunning shared that there are positive highlights as part of the outcome. The critical piece is the parking lot.

Others paid compliment to the work Ms. Kiley did.

6. Reports

a. Teacher Representative

None.

Dick Dunning reached out to ask for a teacher representation to share their voice.

Dr. Saunders reported having this conversation just today with the CVEA.

b. Equity Committee – Liz Swan

Liz Swan reported that a conversation about next steps to move SMART goals along took place. Forming a subcommittee of the Equity Committee to engage with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) was suggested. An equity audit through RFP is planned. The committee would be responsible. A charge is under development.

c. Selectmen's Advisory Committee- Stephen Ullman

Janine Lesser reported having attended. The SAC Chair is looking for ways to be supportive of the district and the board.

Kimberly reported that they asked for an update on the lawsuit for their next meeting.

d. School Board Goals Work Session – Janine Lesser

Janine Lesser reported that the session was facilitated by Kimberly Saunders and went well. It started out with the annual board evaluation and a -R was suggested. Goals that were submitted by school board members were reviewed and drilled down to six goals.

e. Policy Committee – Crista Salamy

Crista Salamy reported having met tonight. Four policies were discussed. Of those, three will be coming for a first read. Jim Fredrickson referenced a budget document and asked if it was going to the Policy Committee. More to come.

7. Old Business

a. Legislative Update

Janine Lesser reported sending out a link about Reaching Higher NH. The proposed rule for minimum standards would gut the standards for public education. It is alarming. It is not a piece of legislation. A public comment period is required. None of the processes were followed. It was handed off to a private company to make the changes. They have been sent out to four educational organizations in the State for comment.

Kimberly Saunders said that she is happy to send out the link to anyone who would like it.

b. Policies 2nd Read/Adoption

- IHBB: Programs for Gifted Students

Stephen Ullman moved to adopt Policy IHBB as presented. Kevin Pobst seconded the motion. Unanimous.

- IHBAF: Child Find

Liz Swan moved to adopt this policy as presented. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.

8. New Business

a. Rescind Policies

- LCC: Dual Enrollment and Relations with Community Colleges

Dick Dunning moved to rescind Policy LCC. Stephen Ullman seconded.

Greg Kriebel noted that this is being rescinded because it is covered under another policy. Unanimous.

b. Policies 1st Read

- BEDH: Public Comment and Participation at Board Meetings

- DFGA: Crowdfunding

- EBCG: Communicable & Infectious Diseases

- JCA: Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship

- JCB: Change of School within ConVal School District Schools

- JLC: Student Health Services

- JLCE: Emergency Care & First Aid

- JHCB: Immunizations of Students

Janine Lesser asked that questions or comments be directed to Crista Salamy by email.

c. Technology Purchases

Projectors and desktops are budgeted in the current fiscal year budget and are part of the replacement cycle.

Greg Kriebel moved to approve the recommendation to purchase 25 Epson BrightLink Interactive projectors to replace classroom SMARTBoard and Projectors per the replacement cycle with vendor SHI in the amount of \$48,112.50.

Keira Christian seconded. Unanimous.

The purchase recommendation for 24 AiO in One Desktops to replace 5+ year old student desktops per replacement cycle was shared.

Greg Kriebel moved to purchase 24 AiO in One Desktops from SHI in the amount of \$27,710.88 to replace 24 desktop computers. Keira Christian seconded. Unanimous.

d. Cell Phone RFP

Mark Schaub reported that this is up to 60 cell phones with unlimited data. T-Mobile had the better price.

Jim Fredrickson moved to buy up to 60 cell phones from T-Mobile in the amount of \$17,539.20.

Tom Burgess seconded.

There is no cost for the phone if the line is maintained for 24 months. This is for staff usage.

Why is the district purchasing phone for staff? This is for staff that are required to be available for a large number of hours per day. Some staff receive a stipend for personal phone use which exceeds this amount discussed tonight.

Further discussion will take place.

Unanimous.

e. Goal Review & Adoption

Janine Lesser referenced a list of proposed School Board goals for the 2022-2023 school year.

Kevin Pobst moved for the adoption of goals #5, #6, and #4, as well as #1 with the associated bullets beneath them. Tom Burgess seconded.

Stephen Ullman proposed that the six goals be ranked and averaged to determine the top three goals. Tom Burgess said that this runs into the issue of how many goals to have.

Kevin Pobst recommended adopting four goals in no particular order; #5, #6, #4, and #1.

Jim Fredrickson asked if voted, what happens to the conversation about how many goals should be in place.

Stephen Ullman moved to amend the motion on the floor that school board members rank the six goals on the document listed.

Janine Lesser noted that there was not a lot of agreement. She said a vote on Kevin's motion could take place.

Alan Edelkind moved to include goal #3 to enhance community communication. Jim Fredrickson seconded Alan's motion to amend.

Liz Swan said that all of these items are important. If one or more do not make it as a goal the work will continue on that topic. Attention will still be given to that area e.g. Social/emotional and academic well-being of students.

Janine Lesser said that all six of the goals were seen as important areas and are in the Strategic Plan. The board typically communicates their three or four goals to the public.

Alan Edelkind said that a goal, if not voted in, would lose visibility by the public. He suggested that all six be School Board Goals.

Call on the vote on the amendment:

In favor of adding a fifth goal. Alan Edelkind and Jim Fredrickson

Opposed: All others

Amendment failed.

Crista Salamy said that while all six are good goals we have to be able to do them well. If we are going to push them, let's do two or three well and complete them.

The original motion of four goals by Kevin Pobst is still on the floor. Kevin said that several of these are mechanical and are steps toward a further goal. They would not be exhaustive of the time and energy of the board.

Janine Lesser noted that these goals are included in the Strategic Plan and would not fall by the wayside.

The board as a whole usually highlights three goals to concentrate on.

Jim Fredrickson moved to amend Kevin's motion to add goal #2 as the fifth goal; goal #3 would be done anyway. Doug Sutherland seconded.

Tom Burgess noted that Dr. Ullman offered to prioritize the six goals. If six are a problem, he proposed limiting it to four.

Vote on Jim Fredrickson's amendment to add a fifth goal of #2 social/emotional;

In favor Alan Edelkind, Jim Fredrickson, and Doug Sutherland

Opposed: 8.

Amendment failed.

Stephen Ullman shared his comfort with three goals rather than Kevin's three.

Stephen Ullman proposed that the School Board adopt #5, #4, #6. Crista Salamy seconded.

Alan Edelkind said that District Safety should be the Board's most important goal.

Doug Sutherland said that there are some things that he doesn't see. For this year, safety, DEIA, and SEL along with academic goals of schools should be the Board's focus.

Vote on amendment to adopt goals #5, #6, and #4 and drop #1.

In favor: Stephen Ullman.

Opposed: all others.

Motion failed.

Vote on the original motion to include four goals - #1, #4, #5, and #6.

In favor: 9

Opposed: Doug Sutherland and Crista Salamy

Motion carried.

Crista Salamy said that she voted no because there should be three and that #2 should be among them.

Doug Sutherland agreed that #2 should be ranked over reconfiguration.

Kimberly Saunders suggested how #5 might read.

Kevin Pobst motioned to change the wording of #5 to add social emotional learning elements at the end.

Liz Swan seconded.

Liz said that some of this work is happening on a daily basis. As a parent, what she sees teachers do in the classroom to support SEL of students is excellent. This is not something that is not in the lens we seek. She sees it happening. Further, she said that the board always supports administrations academic goals.

Crista Salamy said that as a parent, she does not see it that way. She thinks that work is needed to continue.

Jim Fredrickson said that the next important step is to communicate the School Board goals.

Doug Sutherland called the question to vote on the amendment to add SEL to support administration academic goals.

In favor: 9

Opposed Tom Burgess, Crista Salamy.

Four goals while incorporating two into one.

f. Foreign Exchange Students

Kimberly Saunders reported that a halt on having foreign exchange students during the pandemic was in place. This is on the agenda for the board's consideration.

Dick Dunning moved to allow foreign exchange students to attend ConVal. It is a great opportunity for our students to have an interaction.

Kevin Pobst seconded.

Alan Edelkind said that he does not know what goes into this program and asked how many foreign exchange students would be coming. Kimberly reported that two students may be coming.

These students would be coming for a full year.

What is the cost of this to have a student come? It depends on the program. It can be negotiated.

Stephen Ullman said that he, like Alan, is in favor. Selection of families to host are important. There should be an academic advisor to assure that the student's curriculum can be examined. Student colleagues were suggested. He shared his concerns.

Kimberly Saunders said that families work with companies who select families and students. A fee is typically paid to that company by the family. Families are already selected. ConVal has often had foreign exchange students.

Doug Sutherland shared that getting this program going again gives our students a different look at different people.

This vote would open the door in general.

Unanimous.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests totaling \$788,400.11 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.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Legal

c. Personnel

Alan Edelkind moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II for matters of negotiations and personnel at 8:45 pm. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Liz Swan moved to exit non-public session at 9:45 p.m. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Jim Fredrickson moved that administration move forward with the conceptual design phase in the high school/middle school modernization project to onboard the preferred supplier.

Alan Edelkind second. Unanimous.

Jim Fredrickson moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for 5 years. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Greg Kriebel motioned to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. Keira Christian seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok