

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Tuesday, November 15, 2022
Immediately Following Public Hearing(s) 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

Katherine Craig, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Amy Janoch, Learning Recovery
Carrie James, H.R.
Larry Pimental, PES
Shawne Hilliard, DCS/HES
Colleen Roy, GES
Beth Gibney, Pierce/FES
Tim Iwanowicz, TES
Jen Kiley, ATC

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Janine Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Janine asked the board to focus on the budget and justifications tonight due to pending weather coming.

2. Points of Pride

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

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) November 1, 2022

b. Personnel

1) Retirement

a. Adine Aldrich, PES – June 2024

2) 2022-2023 Co-Curricular Notifications

Dick Dunning moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Stephen Ullman seconded. Unanimous.

5. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders reported that there are no outstanding School Board Requests.

b. Monthly Events Calendar

The Policy Committee meeting on December 6th was cancelled.

The Food Service/Wellness Committee will meet on December 12th at 6:00 p.m.

c. Strategic Plan and Public Comment Presentation

Kimberly Saunders reported receiving three emails with comments about the Strategic Plan.

A clear glossary was asked and the avoidance of using acronyms. A glossary will be added with hyperlinks.

6. Reports

a. Student Representative – Katherine Craig

Katherine Craig reported that this Saturday, the Holiday Craft Fair will take place from 9-2 at the high school. A “Snow Ball” dance is scheduled on December 17th. Various fundraisers are underway for all classes. Student Leadership Team is open to all students interested in promoting school spirit and events. A reminder that the crisis line for anyone texting HOME to 741741 if in need of assistance. This number is posted around the school. In addition, Allstate recipients have been named. Lastly, a recent blood drive resulted in 22 pints.

b. Teacher Representative

None.

c. Budget & Property Committee – Jim Fredrickson

Jim Fredrickson said that a “School Board Documents Forms Drive” with Committee Reports folder was identified for reports.

Jim asked that the reports be available to the public. Kimberly said that there could be a conflict; the minutes are the official record of the meeting.

Jim Fredrickson shared what took place at the last Budget & Property Committee meeting. The SKIP lease was a topic discussed of concern. School Safety audit was reported out by Tim Grossi at the meeting. High School/Middle School renovation contract was discussed. Jim asked if this was signed. Kimberly said that she will confirm.

Jim reported that Lori Schmidt and Katherine Heck are finished the financial policy draft documents. Katherine will lead through a review at a future B&P meeting.

d. Food Service/Wellness Committee- Dick Dunning

Dick Dunning reported that the committee met last night. Decisions will be needed. The financial report was reviewed. Funds are budgeted to cover the overage in food service. Within that line, \$125K was budgeted. The September report reflects a deficit of \$38K over what was anticipated. A better idea will be apparent in October. This could be an ongoing issue due to the increased cost of food.

Bad debt was discussed. This is money owed to the school system by students who have not paid. This is a concern. This debt number needs to be decreased. More to come in Non-Public Session.

The wellness goals were touched on; increasing student activity aside from physical activity. There is a lot going on in our schools. Dick asked administration to provide information on what is done during the day to promote wellness.

e. Policy Committee – Crista Salamy

Crista Salamy reported that the committee did not meet this evening.

f. Community Forum – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported that 150 online views of the forum have occurred. The forum can be viewed by going to the ConVal news section on the website. Presentations were well done and well received on Strategic Plan and upcoming events. Thanks to those who took the time to prepare presentations.

A Meet & Greet at the end was well received. Items to improve on were touched on. The next Community Forum will be discussed at Thursday’s meeting.

g. RFI - Alan

Contacting those companies that were reached out to on the RFI will take place next week. Eighteen companies will be reached out to. This will be opened up to board discussion at a December meeting.

7. Old Business

a. Legislative Update

None.

b. CTE Agreement

Janine Lesser referenced the CTE Agreement which was amended to allow moving forward with the renovation. It has been approved by legal counsel.

Kimberly Saunders said that Mascenic and Jaffrey have approved it.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the agreement as modified and presented to the board. Alan Edelkind seconded.

Greg Kriebel asked if there were any substantive changes since the draft. None.

Crista Salamy said that it states 2039 in some places and 2024 in others. It will be corrected.

The page numbering will be corrected.

Unanimous.

c. FY'24 Budget

Kimberly Saunders reported that several directions were asked for. Based on these decisions the budget is -1.05% or \$53,362,493. It is a decrease of \$565,242.

One-year positions that could go into ESSER and 50% positions that could go into the budget and 50% into ESSER was asked. \$53,838,923 is the resulting budget total which is a decrease of .16% or \$88,812.00.

A justification for the Data and Equity potential position was asked and shared.

Greg Kriebel confirmed that \$673,250.00 would be spent in ESSER funds that would not be available next year. Confirmed.

Stephen Ullman asked about the Data and Equity administrator requested. Kimberly Saunders said that if the Priority Area 3 is a priority in earnest, an additional person is needed.

Jim Fredrickson suggested not making any changes to the budget until the board votes on each of these items. Jim agreed to update his spreadsheet to reflect the changes asked for with moving items to ESSER.

Keeping the budget where originally presented and consideration of the proposals and suggestions to look at the impact on the operational budget was suggested.

Kimberly Saunders said that discussion on the transactions proposed moving from one-time expenses in the budget to ESSER would be helpful. The total is approximately \$417K.

Dick Dunning said that we should do that and move that money. The impact it has on district assessment is huge.

Stephen Ullman said that we have urgent needs that should be taken care of without overburdening taxpayers.

Kevin Pobst asked to walk through the items that are 50%/50% and which items would be in the budget the following year.

BEST, Antrim Elementary School Reading Specialist, Antrim Elementary School Reading Interventionist, and Data and Equity Administrator.

What is the consensus of the board on these items?

BEST: Dick Dunning shared concern about making an investment now and carrying over the funds beyond next year totaling \$210K in the budget. Crista Salamy said that she understood that concern but was in favor. Liz Swan said that keeping in mind the resources that administrators say are needed is valuable. She hears the concern Dick shared but a case might be made why this is necessary going forward.

AES/HES Para - \$12,080.00 in the budget. Consensus to include in budget: 10 in favor.

BEST: half and half in 2023/2024 budget with full amount in the budget in the 2024/2025 year. Consensus of the board:

Janine Lesser said that she felt this was a good investment.

Doug Sutherland asked if it has to be a team of all four. Confirmed. This can be placed on a list for additional questions and Ben Moenter and Cari Coates could respond.

Kevin Pobst said that it seems early to assess the need. He said that he was guarded and not yet swayed that this is what we would get for \$210K.

Dick Dunning shared concern about the model; year one team in FES spent the entire year. The following year they spent the entire year in Greenfield. Concern is that single schools are supported and not others in need because of transfers from smaller schools to larger schools.

Colleen Roy said that they were not at GES for the entire school year but rather in and out.

Crista Salamy said that this system has been a practice for a little while. How has it been budgeted? Some from IDEA and some from the budget.

Further discussion will take place at a future meeting.

Restructure of administration teams at the elementary level: \$118K in ESSER, \$135K in budget; full amount in budget following year. No, grant funds would be used. Estimated financial impact is \$254K. Not doing it results in no additional cost. Dick said that he understands communities are not happy about sharing a principal. Unsure where he stands. Janine said that all of the costs are hard to consider.

Kimberly Saunders reminded that a status quo budget was asked. Moving the Strategic Plan forward requires additional resources.

There is the possibility that the structure of the district may be different going forward.

Doug Sutherland said that looking at the numbers is daunting. The structure of education is changing and it will cost to change with it. We need to work with all of the students.

Kimberly Saunders reminded if we can't pass a budget we can't work with all of the students. A default budget puts stress on an educational institution.

Doug said that there may be places where compromises can be made.

Liz Swan asked if it was possible to put items as separate warrant articles to allow the public to vote. Kimberly Saunders said that this would not provide support for a specific set of students voted on. She would not recommend.

Stephen Ullman said that he disagreed with separate warrant articles. Stephen said that after just receiving the budget notebook on Saturday, he is having difficulty making decisions. Kimberly said that decisions are not needed tonight.

Janine Lesser suggested coming to the December 6th meeting with a clear idea of how much room there is to move in the budget and to consider justifications. She asked the board to be prepared to vote on December 6th.

d. Policy – 2nd Read/Adoption

JFAM: Education of Military Children & Military Connected Students

Crista Salamy referenced policy JFAM for a second read/adoption.

Kevin Pobst moved to adopt this policy as presented. Liz Swan seconded. Unanimous.

8. New Business

a. Professional Development Plan (Board Vote Required)

Ann Forrest said that the draft Professional Development Plan was reviewed last spring. The only pieces needed were related to the Strategic Plan priority areas. Nothing else has changed since last reviewed.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the Professional Plan as presented. Stephen Ullman seconded.

Stephen said that the plan is a model set of practices. He shared his strong support of this plan.

Greg Kriebel abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

b. Strategic Plan

Janine Lesser asked the board if they are ready to accept the comments received. Stephen Ullman said that he is not ready to vote tonight. Stephen said that he has additional changes.

Kimberly Saunders said that the board needs to get the proposed changes to her by Friday.

Jim Fredrickson asked thoughts about comments on acronyms. Kimberly agreed that they will be changed and hyper linked to a glossary.

Public comment opened on the 3rd and closed on the 14th of November.

c. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

- 1) The Dublin Consolidated School requests authorization to accept a check in the amount of \$3,450.00 from the Dublin Community Foundation for the purpose of bringing Wunderle's Big Top Adventures to do a one-week residency with their students.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the donation as presented. Alan Edelkind seconded. Unanimous.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests totaling \$520,971.82 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.

Alan Edelkind reported that he is looking for new members on the Communication Committee. Please send an email to Janine Lesser if interested.

Keira Christian resigned from her term effective November 30th as the Bennington representative. She said that she hopes to find a replacement for herself to allow someone in place for budget season.

Stephen Ullman thanked the her and shared his appreciation for her to serve on the Board.

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

- a. Legal
- b. Personnel
- c. Negotiations
- d. Student

Alan Edelkind moved to enter into Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3 for negotiations. Keira Christian seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Greg Kriebel moved to exit Non-Public Session at 8:50 p.m. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for a period of five years. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Greg Kriebel motioned to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. Jim Fredrickson seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok