

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Tuesday, December 6, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Physical Location: SAU #1 Board Room

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ConValEvents>

Minutes

BOARD

Tom Burgess, Richard Dunning,
Alan Edelkind, Michael Hoyt,
Jim Fredrickson, Katherine Heck,
Greg Kriebel, Janine Lesser,
Kevin Pobst, Doug Sutherland,
Liz Swan, Stephen Ullman

Katherine Craig, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Mark Schaub, Tech.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Cari Christian-Coates, Student Serv.
Carrie James, H.R.
Heather McKillop, CVHS
Larry Pimental, PES
Amy Janoch, Learning Recovery
Shawne Hilliard, DCS/HES
Tim Conway, SMS
Kristin Levesque-Lee, PES
Colleen Roy, GES
Beth Gibney, Pierce/FES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Janine Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alan Edelkind moved to enter into Non-Public Session, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II, at 7:02 p.m. for matters of personnel and negotiations. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning moved to exit Non-Public session at 7:42 p.m. Alan Edelkind seconded. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for personnel and student in perpetuity. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning moved to make December 23rd a non-school day for students and staff exclusive of 12-month staff.

Dick Dunning moved to support remuneration for administrators for their support at Great Brook School. Alan Edelkind seconded. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning moved to seal the minutes on discussion of personnel for five years. Liz Swan seconded. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning moved to seal the minutes for negotiations with an outside agency for 10 years. Greg Kriebel seconded. Stephen Ullman abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

2. Points of Pride

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

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) November 15, 2022

b. Personnel

1) 2022-23 Nominations

- Israel Bernal-Lopez, CVHS, Spanish Teacher
- Jill Beaman, CVHS, Math Teacher
- Kristin Harris, CVES, PE/Health Teacher

2) Resignation – December 2022

- Ashlynn Mackey, BES, Kindergarten Teacher

3) 2022-2023 Co-Curricular Notifications

The consent agenda was accepted.

5. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. School Board Requests

1) BEST Information

Kimberly Saunders said that elementary principals will present on BEST. Larry Pimental, Beth Gibney, and Shawne Hilliard will present.

Larry Pimental said that behavior support is needed. There is an increase in behaviors, providing behavioral coaching with targeted instruction is part of the educational plan. The approach to provide targeted instruction makes sense. Having specially trained paras to work with schools ensures behavioral plans are implemented with fidelity. Teachers need support teaching appropriate behaviors. Students need support.

Beth Gibney said that students more and more are displaying dis-regular behaviors. There is a required amount of support needed to address student behavior. BCBA's collected data that was reviewed. Teachers were trained to implement systems to increase desired behaviors.

Shawne Hilliard shared her experiences. Principals compiled data as a narrative about students across the district. A 30-75% decrease in SWIS forms for students resulted. More positive peer relationships have been a result.

Beth shared that a staff member came to her today and shared that they have seen the difference this program makes for students.

Dick Dunning said that we have not seen any data to this point. When proposals are brought forward, back-up is needed. There is a program currently in place. The concern is the cost. Everything that we add to this budget poses a risk to not passing the budget. Would students who are in smaller schools not have to transfer to a larger school to receive services. Confirmed.

Beth Gibney shared how this model would look like in a classroom.

Dick Dunning asked when a solution results and staff are pulled back out, how often do they get called back in.

Beth Gibney said that it has not been the case in her experience.

Cari Christian-Coates said that the point of the model is to provide services to change the structure so that it is conducive to all students. The BCBA and para work in the class supporting the teacher. The BCBA implants the plan, and trains the teacher and para. Once the BCBA believes that the teacher is comfortable, the BCBA fades out and the para remains. The para may move out to support another classroom when determined to do so. When talking about behavior and data that supports this model, it is difficult because it is individually based.

Kevin Pobst shared concern that this will grow because it will find students.

Cari Christian-Coates said that we have eight elementary schools. In each, there are students that need some type of significant support. She shared how the program works with limited staff that are spread too thin. Our elementary school configuration and our extensive needs to provide this type of support, drives the need to expand it.

Mike Hoyt asked how the positions that will be added will be determined for placement.

Cari said that students for special education would be based on a referral form the IEP team to the BEST Team. It is based on data, functional behavioral assessments among other criteria. There would be a similar process for regular education.

Where the highest need is would be assessed. It is kind of a mobile crisis unit.

Stephen Ullman asked if it is the case that you can't predict how mobile the staff can be.

Cari confirmed. This can prevent students from having to go through the special education program.

Tom Burgess said that we have a preschool program to improve how students perform in elementary school.

The ratios for student to teacher in some areas are very low. There are a lot of benefits already happening although not solving problems everywhere. We have to use our resources prudently.

Kimberly Saunders said that principals do have data but because of the number of students involved, it would be possible to identify which students are being worked with. Data can be shared once redacted if needed.

Janine Lesser asked the board if they would like to see data.

Dick Dunning said that he does not want to see the data. Looking at the data tonight and having to decide is difficult. Seeing it in advance would allow in depth questions.

Kevin Pobst exited the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Dick Dunning shared his concerns about the cost impact of additions.

Greg Kriebel said that if the numbers are so small that we worry about identifying people can a number be provided as who would benefit.

Cari Coates said that the information was in the Budget Binder provided on November 12th.

b. Monthly Events Calendar

The December 12th Food Service/Wellness Committee meeting was cancelled.

The Public Hearing on the Proposed FY'24 Budget was set for Tuesday, January 10th beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the SAU Office with a snow date of Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the SAU Office.

District Meeting (Deliberative Session) will take place on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the ConVal High School Gym with a snow date of Thursday, February 9th.

c. December 1st Enrollment Update

Enrollment was referenced.

Kimberly Saunders referenced the Schedule of Payment for the nine towns.

6. Reports

a. Student Representative – Katherine Craig

Katherine Craig reported that winter sports are heating up. The first wrestling match is scheduled for tomorrow. The Snow Ball tickets, which is open to all students in ConVal, are for sale. The Winter Concert is scheduled on December 20th and the Select Choir on December 11th. Winter play auditions are underway. The National Honor Society had a retreat today.

b. Teacher Representative

None.

c. Communication Committee – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind referenced his report on the most recent meeting. There have been two hundred online views of the past Community Forum. Use of microphone and sequencing questions are two areas in need of improvement for the forums.

The next community forum will cover the budget. This will be scheduled after the Deliberative Session. Four presentations are under consideration. The forum would go from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A Meet & Greet will follow. The date of the next forum is to be determined.

Upcoming articles - School Board activities in a monthly release to let them know what is going on at the School Board level.

Alan Edelkind said that the Communication Committee needs an additional member.

d. Education Committee- Stephen Ullman

Stephen Ullman reported that nine reps from the visual arts team were met with at the last Education Committee meeting.

Unlike any other meeting, members of the committee were asked to participate in hands on activities.

They cartooned, drew a portrait, and made a creation.

The committee enjoyed a tour of the middle school art gallery. The committee was pleased that community collaboration is pursued and that students are encouraged to pursue arts enrichment activities outside of the classroom.

e. Strategic Plan – Janine Lesser

Janine Lesser reported that the Strategic Plan will be voted on tonight. The date change from 2022 to 2023 through 2028 will be asked.

Alan Edelkind said that the RFI process was restarted. Six companies were contacted. Additional companies that we did not know existed were contacted. Any responses will be reviewed.

7. Old Business

a. Legislative Update

Kimberly Saunders reported that the cooperative bills have gone to interim study. After the holidays, legislative sessions may heat up.

Katherine Heck said deadline to file LSR's has been extended to December 11th. Many have come in. Testimony will be taken in person or uploaded to the website. No interactive testimony. The DOE has requested double the amount of money for Education Freedom Accounts totaling \$60 million.

Stephen Ullman asked the original amount the Commissioner assumed would fund the freedom accounts. The recollection was that it exploded once it was released. They far exceeded what they budgeted.

Kimberly Saunders said that \$130K was anticipated in the first year.

b. FY'24 Budget

Jim Fredrickson referenced an updated spreadsheet and revenue forecast sheet.
After some adjustments District Assessment is now at 4.13%.

Move equipment from budget to trust - agreed upon.

Reduce the health care not to the maximum - agreed upon.

Use ESSER grants - agreed

Educational technology - agreed

Spend money on flooring in schools - zero out while considering reconfiguration? Projected enrollment at Francestown Elementary School is 42 and 33 for Temple Elementary School next year. It was suggested that this be moved over to Capital Improvement Trust from the budget. A public hearing would be required for \$42K.

AES/HES Special Education para was a \$12K addition to the budget. It is directly related to students.

Based on case management, it was felt that it could be decreased while still supporting students.

Sense of the Board on \$12K was in favor.

BEST Program - \$210K. Half can be taken from ESSER funds. In the following year, it would have to be budgeted.

Jim Fredrickson asked if it is an all or nothing ask; rather than 4 people add 2 people?

Kimberly Saunders said that in order to maximize the program, she would say no.

Stephen Ullman said that there is an assumption that faculty can bring students back from COVID losses.

Janine Lesser said that this is an essential part of our Strategic Plan.

Mike Hoyt said that to cut way back would hurt the program.

Tom Burgess said that several proposals address the same problem e.g. add an administrator at elementary level.

Jim Fredrickson said that this is a discussion. The budget will be updated and there will be another shot at the budget.

Dick Dunning said that he wants to see data on the BEST program to show the impact. This is an addition to a program he does not recall approving. Dick shared his concern with the passing of the budget.

Kimberly Saunders clarified that what is being asked is data for what is in place presently and the start of the next school year. Confirmed.

Sense of the board to add BEST Program back in: In favor: Doug Sutherland, Stephen Ullman, Mike Hoyt, Liz Swan.

Opposed: Majority

Liz Swan shared concerns with the budget.

Proposed Restructure of Elementary Administration – Stephen Ullman posed several questions. He asked if a shared PES Asst. Principal with TES would be possible. The response was that it would not work, PES has an assistant Principal because they need one.

Principal/Coach is a principal and also coach in multiple buildings to coach.

Principal/Teacher is no longer the solution with the intensity of what students need.

The Assistant Principal is needed at PES for the student population. It is a necessary role.

The Principal Model covering more than one school is there to put out fires. They are not able to successfully intervene with behavior. They are not in a role to move curriculum forward among others. They are there to manage the building.

This is part of the Strategic Plan.

This would eliminate principals of more than one school.

In favor of this model in the budget: Tom Burgess, Doug Sutherland, Greg Kriebel, Jim Fredrickson, Mike Hoyt.

Kimberly Saunders said that you cannot do neither of these things (Principal Model or BEST) and hang the elementary schools out to dry by not giving them the support. Those in favor jumped to seven placing this back in the budget.

AES Reading Specialist - in favor

Middle School ESP Teacher - an additional teacher in present ESP program at South Meadow School (SMS) due to an increase in students. It helps keep students in the district.

This is one program for both middle schools located at SMS.

In favor: Yes

Equity Data Specialist - there is a significant amount of work needed in this area. We cannot accomplish priority three in the Strategic Plan without this person. This is not to be taken lightly. We need someone who can lead this work.

How long would this person be on staff? Until the Strategic Plan was accomplished, likely longer. Potentially never let go of this position. This is a long-term position.

Doug Sutherland said that this is not going to go away in five years. We need this. It is for students. What can we do for our students now?

Liz Swan said that this is so important. The issues that are surrounding equity are getting more complex. This will help protect the future. She voiced her support for this.

Sense of the board – In favor.

AES Reading Interventionist - In favor.

SMS Math Interventionist – In favor, all ESSER funds for one year.

GBS Library Media - In favor.

Facility Hourly Increases – In favor.

Other salary adjustments – In favor.

Health Office Delegate – Dick Dunning asked why this could not be part of someone's role in a building with 33 students as an example.

Kimberly Saunders said that these are duties that people are taking on as we see more medically fragile students in buildings.

Cari Coates said that we have some schools that have full-time nurses and some that have part-time nurses. If you are in a school that does not have a full-time nurse, you would receive pay.

In favor - yes.

SRO Services - In favor.

Critical Shortage Spanish – In favor.

New Hire Spanish – In favor.

District Assessment is now 3.9% with these changes.

Jim Fredrickson said that he is uncomfortable with the BEST Program. He asked for half of the addition.

Cari Coates said that 2 is better than 0. 4 is better than 2. Administration prioritized what they felt is most important. BEST was seen as the second highest priority.

This currently brings the budget to \$53,817.123 which is an increase of 1.35% and District Assessment at 3.86%

Show of hands for BEST for whole program back in - in favor.

Trust fund articles need to be discussed.

Parking lots need discussion.

Any other warrant articles in need of discussion?

Doug Sutherland exited the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Discussion took place about returning money and the impact on District Assessment.

Kimberly Saunders said that a new revenue sheet will be constructed.

Kimberly Saunders said that neither she or Lori are comfortable with the numbers the way they are in the area of revenue. More work to come.

8. New Business

a. Strategic Plan (Board Vote Required)

Stephen Ullman moved the adoption of the Strategic Plan as presented. Alan Edelkind seconded. The dates will be changed to 2023 to 2028.

Unanimous.

b. Para Position Justification

One full-time and one part-time are asked.

Tom Burgess moved to add the positions as requested. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Dick Dunning motioned to approve the Manifests as presented. Jim Fredrickson seconded. Unanimous.

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

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

None.

Stephen Ullman motioned to adjourn at 9:58 p.m. Alan Edelkind seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok