

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Thursday, January 5, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Physical Location: SAU #1 Board Room

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

Minutes

BOARD

Richard Dunning, Alan Edelkind,
Jim Fredrickson, 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.
Ben Moenter, Special Ed.
Tim Iwanowicz, TES
Beth Gibney, Pierce, FES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Janine Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

None.

3. Points of Pride

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

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

- 1) December 20, 2022

b. Personnel

Two paraprofessional justification requests were asked.

Stephen Ullman asked if these are legally mandated.

Dr. Saunders said that it is not legally mandated to have the para unless the para is part of the IEP. According to the IEP, these paras are needed. We are required to provide services outlined in an IEP and it could result in a compensatory services issue otherwise.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the two paraprofessional positions as presented. Liz Swan seconded.

Jim Fredrickson asked where the funding would come. Kimberly Saunders said that from the present budget.

Unanimous.

The Consent agenda was accepted.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders reported that she is up to date on School Board Requests.

b. Monthly Events Calendar

The formation of the Building Committee and also Reorganization Committee should be voted by the Board for formation.

Jim Fredrickson moved to formerly establish a Building Committee. Dick Dunning seconded.

Jim said the committee would include administration plus middle school and high school representation, board members (Alan Edelkind, Dick Dunning, and Jim Fredrickson), Bob Edwards and other members of the public. The architect would be a member of the committee but would not have voting rights.

Unanimous.

Kimberly Saunders agreed to ask Tim Grossi to work with the architect to set a first meeting date.

7. Reports

a. Student Representative – Katherine Craig

Katherine Craig reported that the mock trial for the Business and Law class was today. The Judge was Officer Hyland. It ended up being a retrial. A lot of effort was put into by students.

In other news, Mr. Winslow's class won the holiday door decorating contest.

The Snowball was fantastic and the DJ was great.

Youth & Government has been learning legislative processes.

b. Teacher Representative

None.

c. Selectmen's Advisory Committee – Janine Lesser

Janine Lesser reported that the committee met and the proposed budget was shared. Once the budget is approved by the board, the Selectmen have been asked to take it back to their towns to ask for Select board support.

8. Old Business

a. Legislative Update

Kimberly Saunders reported that the LSR's keep coming in. A good handle on exactly how many have come in that will impact public education will be better known soon.

b. FY'24 Budget

Janine Lesser said that the board needs to decide if a placeholder of \$250K should be in place to give back to the towns from the unreserved funds at the end of the year. We need to accept that in order to provide an estimate.

Jim Fredrickson moved to approve the proposed FY' 23/24 gross budget of \$56,106,282. The proposed gross budget should be on the warrant.

Dick Dunning seconded.

The warrant article would cite the \$56,106,282. The warrant article would also state the default budget.

The difference between the default operational budget and the default gross budget is \$1,721,608.00.

Lori Schmidt said that the schedule shows the difference between the proposed and our default calculation which is \$1,721,608.00. If we want to add in the grant funds and special revenue minus proposed warrant articles, the total is \$54,744,674.00 and the difference between the two is \$1,721,608.00.

Jim Fredrickson asked for a few moments to speak with Lori Schmidt, B.A.

A five-minute recess was called at 7:27 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

Jim Fredrickson restated that total \$53,819,282 default would be \$1,361,608.00.

Warrant article includes gross budget numbers so the default calculation is \$1,361,608.00.

Jim said that the difference between operational and gross budget is \$1.361M.

Janine Lesser asked if the board accepts the proposed budget as presented from the email today.

Kevin Pobst noted the number of optional additions that the board voted to add in to the budget was being funded with ESSER funds in large part. If the budget failed, what would happen to those ESSER funds?.

Kimberly Saunders said that the funds could still be used but cautioned not to hit a fiscal cliff. Leveraging funds for student growth is the focus.

Stephen Ullman asked about the MS26 and this budget. Line 910 in proposed budget is for Debt Service on Principal of \$180,000.

Line 114, Administrator, of \$3,062,775 and that on the MS26.

Lori Schmidt said that the state reports are based on guidelines by function. The bottom line number aligns but you cannot directly correlate the two reports. School Administration would include dues and fees, professional services, salary, benefits, and other components.

Kimberly Saunders said that the MS26 is a state report and prior year's budget is required to be reported by function. The budget presented is done so by object. When comparing the functions, it does not compare.

Dick Dunning said that what is important is to emphasize the amount, the increase, and the percent. This represents an increase of \$718,247.00 increase over last year's budget and a 1.27% increase.

District Assessment would be increased by 3.86% increase with \$250K returned to reduce taxes.

Kimberly Saunders said that it is 1.35% on the operational budget. It is important to understand what has been absorbed into the budget; the Collective Bargaining Agreement contract in an environment where the CPI is around 8%. Kimberly shared cost of living and education indexes among other statistics. Please understand that we are doing the best that we can.

Stephen Ullman said that the operational budget increase under these conditions is extraordinary.

Kevin Pobst said that he is going to vote against the budget. He has respect for the budget brought forward but he is uncomfortable with the additions that the board chose to make. He would like to see aspirations for improved performance but is not comfortable with adding in close to a dozen positions to do so. We should be able to improve performance with the status quo. He worried that adding to the budget to meet aspirations rather than rethinking what is in the budget. He is more comfortable with the Default Budget.

Kimberly Saunders said that not all twelve are in the budget; two are one-year positions being funded through ESSER funds.

Kevin Pobst said that we are making a commitment to the 24/25 budget because of things added with ESSER funds that will not be available in the following year. He is uncomfortable with that.

In favor: Alan Edelkind, Stephen Ullman, Dick Dunning, Liz Swan, Crista Salamy, Doug Sutherland, Jim Fredrickson, Janine Lesser
Opposed: Kevin

Kimberly Saunders said that the default calculation is usually done as soon as the budget is set. If a default budget is adopted by the vote, it will cause us to make significant cutbacks to the proposed budget and that for next year.

Lori Schmidt said that one additional piece in the calculation is to remove any eliminated positions.

9. New Business

a. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reorganization Work Group

Alan Edelkind said that for the purpose of this discussion he would like to refer to the Strategic Organization Planning Committee and not the Strategic Organization Committee.

Alan read a document of the proposal for the Strategic Organization Planning Committee.

The direction of the committee will be discussed. Morphing the two committees will be discussed.

The first thing is a vote to organize the first committee; Strategic Organization Planning Committee.

Alan Edelkind moved to organize the Strategic Organization Planning Committee.

Dick Dunning seconded.

Alan Edelkind said that he has developed write-ups about all of this and the work done so far.

The first meeting will take place on January 26th at 6:00 p.m. Four companies are responding to the RFI. NESDEC will also be met with. In addition, NHSAA have been reached out to for a review of the output of the work of this committee. MARS is a resource to help identify companies that might assist this work.

Progress is being made.

Alan Edelkind said that on the Articles of Agreement he would support no change to the Articles of Agreement.

In favor of establishing this committee: Unanimous.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests listed totaling \$3,292,661.04 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.

12. Adjournment

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Doug Sutherland seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok