

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

**School Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2023
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, Jim Fredrickson,
Katherine Heck, Greg Kriebel,
Janine Lesser, Kevin Pobst,
Crista Salamy, Doug Sutherland,
Stephen Ullman

Katherine Craig, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Carrie James, H.R.
Jen Kiley, ATC
Tim Conway, SMS
Heather McKillop, CVHS

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Janine Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

a. Legal

Alan Edelkind moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3,II at 7:06 p.m. for legal matters. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 7:59 p.m. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

3. Points of Pride

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

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

- 1) January 17, 2023
- 2) January 31, 2023
- 3) February 7, 2023

b. Personnel

The resignations of Emily Bracken, GBS and Stephanie Syre-Hager, AES were shared. Stephen Ullman shared his appreciation of Dr. Syre-Hager's work for the district.

Kimberly Saunders withdrew notification of stipends to get clarification.

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders reported two presentations have been requested; one on Charlie and one on the School Resource Officer. Additionally, an enrollment request is being worked on.

A request for the assignments over Black History month have been prepared and will go out by the end of the week.

b. Monthly Events Calendar

Food Service/Wellness Committee will not meet on March 13th. Once the committees are formed after the March 14th vote, meetings will be scheduled.

c. February 1st Enrollment Update

February 1st enrollment was referenced. The high school had eight early grads. We currently have 94 preschool students. Enrollment is not stagnant; students join as they become age eligible.

d. Harris Center for Conservation Presentation

Kimberly Saunders introduced Jeremy Wilson and Susie Spikol, associated with a 52-year partnership with the Harris Center for Conservation.

Susie said that she is currently Community Programs Director. She works at Pierce School and Hancock Elementary School. The program runs from Preschool through high school. Jeremy will share information about funding.

For 52 years, the Harris Center has been working with the ConVal School District to help students, teachers, and families learn about the natural world through first-hand experiences.

The Harris Center is part of every student's preschool experience. The Harris Center works with elementary grades in the classroom and outside to nearby areas. Highly trained natural educators work with middle school and high school students.

Afterschool programs connect students with enrichment opportunities beyond the school day. Private supporters, grants, and other sources of funding fund after school programs. The YETI Club's experiences and opportunities were shared. Lab Girls is a program started 8 years ago to provide the opportunity to connect students with hands on science opportunities. Science is cool is the message.

Jenn Sutton and Meredith Lyons, both educators at ConVal, were present. Both are deeply committed to science education.

Jenn Sutton shared the heart of why we do what we do and that is the kids. What kids love about the program was shared. Jenn shared her appreciation for the partnership between the ConVal School District and the Harris Center. It has had a positive impact on students, particularly with the social/emotional impact that it provides in a positive way.

Meredith Lyons, 8th grade teacher, said that the field trips to local places to teach kids about natural spaces and make connections to their own world through looking at maps and watersheds is valuable. Students enjoy the tools that the Harris Center provides e.g. waders. The expertise and high-quality education by the naturalists are a wonderful part of the connection. Janine Lesser said that the board stands in awe of the wonderful things that the Harris Center for Education does.

e. CTE Presentation

Jen Kiley, CTE Director, was present to speak about the future of the CTE Programming.

Current and planned programming opportunities were shared.

Currently, there are ten programs at the CTE; automotive, business, careers in education, computers and info technology, construction trades, digital photo and video, pre-engineering, firefighting and EMT, graphic design, and manufacturing.

All of these programs have an approved course sequence, post-secondary credits, and industry-recognized credentials.

Planned programming is proposed to add two programs; agriculture, general with a focus on animal science. Many pathways fall under the agriculture, general program. By going under this umbrella, the pathway for animal science is opened. Local families are involved in forestry as well. Animal science has potential career pathways - vet tech, farm and nonfarm animal caretaker, trainer, breeder, biochemist, veterinarian. Economic and labor market indicators point to a need of animal caretakers and veterinarians. There is a need for equine care locally. The nearest CTE centers offering similar programming are located in Langdon at the Fall Mountain CTE, Hudson, or Derry.

The sequence of courses would be a semester of general agriculture (semester, 1 credit), animal science I (full year, 2 credits), and Animal Science II (full year, 2 credits). Followed by two other offerings.

The second program proposed is with the Health Professions & Related Services. The need for services is great in our area. Potential local employers include hospitals, nursing homes, home healthcare, and doctor and dental offices. The nearest CTE Center offering similar programming is Nashua, Keene, Manchester, and Hudson.

The proposed sequence of courses was outlined. Running Start credits would be earned.

Crista Salamy asked how it was decided on which programs to move forward with.

Jen Kiley said that we are one of three coordinating sites. Finding programs with double digit growth were sought, coupled with advisors and support to make sure that students stay current.

Tom Burgess put a plug in for the ATC Open House on Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 weather permitting. It was noted that it was rescheduled.

Janine Lesser asked the board for a vote to continue with the proposed program later tonight.

7. Reports

a. Student Representative – Katherine Craig

Katherine Craig reported that the Open House is coming in the next two weeks for parents to meet their students' teachers. The production of a Midsummer Night's Dream takes place this week.

A dodgeball tournament will be held on March 10th and is open to the public with proceeds going to the baseball team.

Boys' basketball playoffs are over break at 7:00 on Tuesday. Senior nights are underway.

Cheer is competing at Division II at Pinkerton Academy soon.

High school students have been overseeing elementary tours of the ATC.

Doug Sutherland exited meeting at 8:53 p.m.

b. Strategic Organization Planning Committee – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported having met to review how each respondent to RFI's would take place. Criteria is needed. Makeup of SOC was discussed and how large it could become. Vendor will help determine and organize the committee. Reviews of RFI are underway. RFI will lead to RFP. Timelines will be discussed for the RFP tomorrow.

c. Education Committee – Stephen Ullman

Stephen Ullman reported that the bulk of the meeting was a presentation of Jen Kiley's CTE proposals. This activity is supported in great part by federal monies. Students get to receive college credits. Jen has done the empirical research. Lucky to have Jen Kiley.

d. Food Service/Wellness Committee – Dick Dunning

Dick Dunning reported that the operating costs were reviewed. Will continue to monitor. Moved JLCF back to Policy Committee as a result of minor changes made. Replacing two vans was discussed using trust funds. Whether two or three vans are needed will be determined.

Dick encouraged the board to read the policy JLCF when it returns for a first read.

e. Budget & Property Committee – Jim Fredrickson

Jim Fredrickson reported discussion on policy occurred. Non-public discussion took place.

f. Communication Committee – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported that the focus of the meeting was on the Community Forum scheduled on March 6th with a focus on the proposed budget. Selectmen's Advisory Committee involvement was discussed. Four presentations are planned with a meet and greet to follow the forum.

Janine Lesser encouraged everyone to attend the Community Forum on March 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the Lucy Hurlin Theatre at ConVal High School.

8. Old Business

a. Legislative Update

Kimberly Saunders reported on Legislative updates underway.

Katherine Heck reported waiting on HB 1 and 2. The Governor is proposing an increase in education funding. Doubling the Education Freedom Accounts has been requested at the request of the Governor. Proposed eliminations of grants were shared. Other information on Bills was shared. Heading into the crossover phase soon; April 6th. House has budget right now. Hundreds of people oppose universal school funding bill.

HB50 and 114 to reinstate a permanent contribution to NHRS unanimously supported and then tabled.

Kimberly commented that the \$4,700 proposed for adequate education funding is actually \$9,929.00 to provide an adequate education. ConVal goes to trial on April 10th. That \$9,929.00 is exclusive of transportation.

Katherine Heck further shared that the Governor did elude to the funding of education and she encouraged all to watch the YouTube video on it.

9. New Business

a. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

- 1) Great Brook School requests authorization to accept a check in the amount of \$1,800.00 from The Antrim Lions and Antrim Library for the purpose of paying for two students to go on the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip.

Kevin Pobst moved to accept the donation as presented with gratitude. Stephen Ullman seconded. Unanimous.

- 2) Great Brook School requests authorization to accept a check in the amount of \$900.00 from the Great Brook School PTO for the purpose of paying for a student to go on the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip.

Greg Kriebel moved to accept the donation as presented. Stephen Ullman seconded. Unanimous.

- 3) ConVal Athletics requests authorization to accept a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 from The Steven W. Crowe Foundation for the ConVal Basketball Program.

Stephen Ullman moved to accept the donation as presented. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

- 4) The ConVal High School requests authorization to accept a check in the amount of \$2,500.00 from an Anonymous Donor for the purpose of allowing the high school administration to provide fees or equipment for students to participate in co-curriculars when families cannot afford it.

Stephen Ullman moved to accept the donation as presented. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

- 5) South Meadow School requests authorization to accept a check in the amount of \$500.00 from Constance Heinz for the purpose of community assistance to help district families in need.

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

- 6) South Meadow School requests authorization to accept a check in the amount of \$3,000.00 from Renew Church, Hancock, NH for the purpose of community assistance to help district families in need.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the donation as presented. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Janine Lesser thanked everyone for these wonderful contributions to our district.

b. School Board Candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair – Q&A

- Policy BDB: Board Officers

Janine Lesser opened up the floor to candidates for School Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman to speak:

Alan Edelkind shared the reasons he is running for Vice-Chairman of the School Board and shared his experience and contributions to the ConVal School District and board. He said that it has been a great learning experience and he has learned a lot. He brings business experience and knowledge to the table. He is organized and tireless. It is about relationships. Takes responsibilities seriously. Focused on doing what he can do to provide the best education possible economically.

Dick Dunning said that he was employed by ConVal for 41 years and on the board for eight years. Bringing knowledge to the board is valuable. Building relationships is important. He said that he speaks the truth otherwise he won't speak. He would be honored to work with this group of people.

The new board will vote for Chairman and Vice Chairman after the March 14th election.

c. Expenditure and Encumbrance Report – Lori Schmidt

Lori Schmidt reported that electricity bills have been coming in at new rates. It appears that we might be \$30K short for electricity. No transfers are proposed as of yet while work to reduce is worked on. It is too soon to project fuel. Student Services for pupils reflects a difference due to placements. An adjustment will be made appropriately. Copier services is being evaluated. Budget transfers will likely come forward to move from placeholders to appropriate accounts.

Jim Fredrickson moved to accept the expenditure and encumbrance report. Kevin Pobst seconded. Unanimous.

d. Fundraising for CTE Renovation

Kimberly Saunders said that we would like to do a fundraising push for CTE. A proposal to hire someone to do this work will come forward. This is informational tonight for awareness. It is in our best interest to raise a certain amount of money because of .25 on the dollar and state funding.

e. CTE Renovation and Programs

Janine Lesser asked for a vote to move forward with two programs presented on tonight by Jen Kiley.

Greg Kriebel motioned to give Jen Kiley the ability to move forward with two programs as presented.

Alan Edelkind seconded. Crista Salamy abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

10. Public Comment

Dan Harper, Hancock, shared that he is running for the open Hancock School Board position. He thanked everyone for the hard work done in the district. He shared his history with work on building of schools, renovations, and he said that public schools need as much support as they can get. He wants his grandchildren to see him give back and stand up for something important.

Stephan Morrissey reported that he is running for the open School Board position in Frankestown. He thanked everyone for their service.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that the manifests listed, totaling, \$2,623,659.78 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 motioned to approve the Manifests as presented. Jim Fredrickson seconded. Unanimous.

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

Alan Edelkind motioned to enter into Non-Public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 9:30 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 9:48 p.m. Alan Edelkind seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public in perpetuity. Tom Burgess seconded. Unanimous.

Tom Burgess motioned to accept the Superintendent's recommendation not to approve a second-year leave. Katherine Heck seconded. Greg Kriebel abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Dick Dunning motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session for five years. Stephen Ullman seconded. Unanimous.

Jim Fredrickson moved to seal the minutes on lease discussion for a period of five years. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.

13 Adjourn

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok