

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 2, 2023

SAU Office Board Room

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: John Robertson, George Willard, Carole Monroe, Bill Kennedy, Mike Borden, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Alan Edelkind

1. Call to Order

John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes of December 22, 2022

Bill Kennedy moved to approve the minutes of December 22, 2022. Mike Borden seconded. Carole Monroe abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes of January 26, 2023

Bill Kennedy moved to approve the minutes of December 22, 2022. Mike Borden seconded. Carole Monroe abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

4. Coordinate participation in Community Forum

John Robertson asked those present if they had planned for the Community Forum in terms of sharing information in their towns.

John said that the forum is in the Lucy Hurlin Theater at ConVal High School at 6:00 p.m. on Monday.

Mike Borden said that he will be sure to put it out on the community page in Greenfield.

Any groups planned to watch it live streamed?

Alan Edelkind asked if everyone has had success getting it on the town websites.

Greenfield has it pushed out on their website.

Bill Kennedy said that it was included in the bi-weekly newsletter.

John Fredrickson said that it was included in the Limerick.

Alan Edelkind said that there is another communication going out tomorrow as a reminder.

5. SAC and Strategic Plan

John Robertson asked if we had a contractor to study the organization plan.

Alan Edelkind said that the Strategic Organization Committee is engaging with a firm that will be looking for options for consolidation or reconfiguration. It is a long-term project. Community involvement and Selectmen's Advisory Committee involvement is sought.

A Request for Information (RFI) went out and a Request for Proposal (RFP) will follow. The RFP writing is in process. Three firms will be sent the RFP.

A non-biased opinion is necessary. These are firms with experience in the process.

The Communications Committee will send out information to the communities as it develops.

The hope is that it will be done in time for the next voting cycle.

The timeline will be set by the consulting firm. The RFP will be sent out. The three companies have been interviewed. Selection is anticipated in May.

John Robertson said that a vote on changes to the Articles of Agreement is aggressive for next March.

Alan Edelkind said that we don't know what the implementation recommendation will be.

The RFP will be reviewed internally by five School Board members.

John Robertson said that it is critical that Selectmen's Advisory Committee (SAC) get involved as soon as appropriate.

Alan said that the committee structure was looked at. The firm selected will develop the committee. Community and SAC are critical.

It does not matter what you produce if you do not communicate it well. This is an educational issue, a safety issue, and a budget issue.

Carole Monroe said that there is an economic perspective issue as well; some feel that it will reduce property values without a school in each town.

Kimberly Saunders said that a previous Dublin Select board member stated publicly that they discourage people with kids from moving in town.

John Robertson said that SAC has been meeting for some time and there are some towns that are not represented.

Kimberly said that these meetings conflict with Select board meetings.

Carole Monroe shared that she was advised not to attend SAC meetings because it was a waste of time. The opportunity for candid conversation is seen as absent.

Mike Borden said that if you don't come there is no opportunity to be heard.

Carole said that they are looking to have an impact.

Bill Kennedy said that one perception is to have an impact, he comes to listen and learn.

Mike Borden said that he brings information back. Mike said that he could reach out to Frankestown.

Kimberly said that she asked SAC to do a community masterplan. In Peterborough, several bridges and a library were built. That is a big undertaking. Looking at the big projects in each of the towns would have an impact. She was unsure why it didn't take off but it would have been helpful.

John Robertson said that representation from the towns is important for reconfiguration and consolidation discussions.

Alan Edelkind asked John Robertson if he solicits input when developing the SAC agenda. John said not typically.

Carole Monroe said that this could be taken back by each member to ask their Select board what they would like to know.

Agenda formation and development was discussed.

Carole suggested that a list of Select board members by name, town, and contact would be helpful.

Bill said that when people in his town have discussion items they are sent to the Town Administrator.

He suggested that for this committee's purpose he recommended John Robertson.

In addition, we need to find out why other town Select board members are not represented here.

Send topics of interest for future SAC agendas to John Robertson.

Meeting quarterly rather than monthly was suggested to provide more purpose to the meeting.

How often and when does SAC need to meet?

Things beyond budget are valuable such as test scores.

6. Budget Support

Peterborough, Dublin, and Greenfield are in support of the budget.

Kimberly said that this is not the year to lose the budget. The increase is 1.35% in the operating budget and 3.86% on district assessment over last year. ESSER monies were leveraged for one-time expenses. Town budget increases were discussed.

7. Other

Alan Edelkind clarified that the RFP will go out at the end of March. Responses will be due at the end of April. Selection will take place at the end of May.

The next SAC meeting is March 23, 2023.

8. Adjourn

Bill Kennedy motioned to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. George Willard seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Marschok