

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Annual Meeting
ConVal High School
District Meeting – Part I (Deliberative Session)
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Call to Order:

Moderator Bob Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moderator Edwards welcomed everyone present tonight. Moderator Edwards reported that the Peterborough Supervisors of the Checklist are not present yet and he recessed the meeting until 6:30 to allow time to give everyone the opportunity to be represented. The Peterborough Supervisor of the Checklist arrived at 6:13 p.m. Moderator Edwards directed Peterborough registered voters to please check in. After time to check in, Moderator Edwards asked if anyone from Peterborough had not checked in.

Moderator Edwards thanked those present and reconvened the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

He introduced himself as School District Moderator.

The housekeeping rules related to building access in the event of an emergency were reviewed and emergency exits were pointed out. John Cronin, Assistant Moderator, was introduced. Attorney Dean Eggert, District Legal Counsel, was introduced.

Mr. Edwards said that the purpose of the Deliberative Session is to determine the final vote on March 14, 2023 in respective towns.

Each Article will be read by the Moderator. A school board member or official will be recognized to speak on the article. Comments and questions will be opened. Amendments to articles must be considered one at a time and presented in writing. When there are no further questions, they will be closed to further debate and we will move to the next article. Once closed, a vote and second will be required to revisit.

Only voters from the nine ConVal School District towns may vote and speak. In terms of speaking, exempt staff and legal counsel will be able to provide information and address the meeting. Others may address the meeting if there are no objections to do so.

A speaker must state their name and town of residence for the record and the purpose in which one wishes to speak. A speaker may not speak at the microphone and make a motion at the same time. They must be done separately to allow anyone else wishing to speak to do so.

Anyone raising a point of order may do so by bringing it to the attention of the Moderator. Each voter has received one voter card to identify them as a registered voter. If there is an amendment and a proper second, those present will be asked to raise their voter card to allow a visual assessment of the count. If there is a challenge to the visual count, a physical count will be required.

Secret ballot must be signed and confirmed by the Supervisors of the Checklist in the towns. A request must be made in writing and requires six signatures.

After we adjourn please drop cards in the boxes at each exit.

That Moderator asked that phones be silenced so as not to interrupt this session.

If a voter believes that sufficient debate has occurred the question may be moved. The Moderator reserves the right to allow further debate if he feels that has not occurred sufficiently.

The Moderator asked that full time be devoted to the subject matter and to refrain from secondary discussions. We are conducting important school business and ask that respect be given to those speaking.

Moderator Edwards called on Janine Lesser, School Board Chair for comments.

Janine Lesser welcomed everyone tonight and shared her appreciation for their commitment to the ConVal community. The work presented tonight is a fair budget and is a clear commitment to our students. It is fair to the taxpayers. Balancing the two interests is difficult. There is a lot of good material in the published materials and on the ConVal website. She encouraged people to access information before voting on March 14th.

The Moderator read the following:

WARRANT
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the Inhabitants of the Contoocook Valley School District consisting of the Towns of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at **ConVal High School** at 184 Hancock Rd., (Route 202 North) in Peterborough on the **seventh day of February, 2023, at 6 o'clock in the evening** for the first session of the Annual School District Meeting (snow date: ninth day of February next at 6 o'clock in the evening), to deliberate upon the warrant articles listed below. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended; (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended; and, (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this provision.

You are further notified to meet at the following places in the Town of your residence:

Antrim	Antrim Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Bennington	Pierce Elementary School	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Dublin	Dublin Town Hall	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Francestown	Francestown Town Hall	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Greenfield	Greenfield Meeting House	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Hancock	Hancock Town Office	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Peterborough	Peterborough Community Center	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sharon	Sharon Meeting House	11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Temple	Temple Town Hall	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

on the **fourteenth day of March** next for the second session of the Meeting (polls will be open for voting by official ballot at the second session)

Article 01: Operating Budget-School District-SB2

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$56,106,282? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$54,744,674 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Contoocook Valley School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Jim Fredrickson, Chairman of the Budget & Property Committee, shared opportunities for information about what is being discussed tonight.

He said that the proposed budget and default budget can be backed up to the gross budget. If it is not approved, there is a default. The operating budget is the meat of the budget.

The proposed 23/24 budget and the approved 22/23 budget has a difference of \$718K. The proposed budget reflects a 1.35% increase over the current budget. Other towns and school districts are well beyond. The proposed budget has been well scrubbed.

83% of the budget is made up of salaries. This budget includes the second year of the CVEA contract approved last year. Supplies and materials reflect an increase as a result of electricity and fuel.

A default budget would require cuts. The default is actually a calculation. If a default resulted, those items with the least impact on students would be cut first.

Articles 2-7 total \$1M in trust fund funding requests. At the end of June 2023, articles would be funded in the order they appear on the warrant if approved and if there are funds available.

Jim Fredrickson asked those present if there were questions. There were none.

Moderator Edwards closed Article 1 to further discussion.

Article 02: Appropriate to the Building Capital Reserve Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to be added to the Building Capital Reserve Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2023 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Katherine Heck, Greenfield, moved to accept the article as written.

This article asks for the sum of \$500,000 to be placed in the Building Capital Reserve Fund. This will only occur if there are funds available. We are asking for this because we have a target balance that aligns with our Strategic Plan.

The Moderator asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Moderator Edwards closed Article 2 to further discussion.

Article 03: Appropriate to the Energy Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 to be added to the Contoocook Valley School District Energy Trust Fund, previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2023 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Richard Dunning, Peterborough, said that we have purchased a solar arrangement and these funds will allow us to buy back this arrangement to maximize the benefit of solar panels. Setting funds aside to do this is requested.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions or discussion. There was none.

Moderator Edwards closed Article 3 to further discussion.

Article 04: Appropriate to the Technology Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to be added to the Technology Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2023 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Tom Burgess, Peterborough, said that the Technology Trust Fund was established to maintain and acquire hardware and software as necessary to keep ConVal up to date and allow students the exposure necessary. We strongly recommend adoption of this article.

The Moderator asked if there was further discussion on the floor. There was none.

Moderator Edwards closed Article 4 to further discussion.

Article 05: Appropriate to the Equipment Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Equipment Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2023 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Liz Swan, Temple, said that the Equipment Trust Fund speaks to equipment, service vans, trucks and other equipment needed to maintain our facilities and grounds. Everything working efficiently and effectively is important.

The Moderator asked if there was further discussion on the floor. There was none.

Moderator Edwards closed Article 5 to further discussion.

Article 06: Appropriate to the Building Capital Reserve Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to be added to the Building Capital Reserve Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2023 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023, with no amount to be raised from taxation. In the event that Article 02 passes, this appropriation shall be in addition to any appropriation to the Building Capital Reserve pursuant to Article 02.

(The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Katherine Heck, Greenfield, said that this article comes in a different amount for the same fund as Article 02 because if funds are available, they are funded in the order they appear on the warrant. In the event that there are funds available, we ask that you support this Article.

The Moderator asked if there was further discussion. There was none.

Moderator Edwards closed this Article to further discussion.

Article 07: Appropriate to the Health Maintenance Trust Fund from Fund Balance

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Health Maintenance Trust Fund as previously established? This sum to come from June 30, 2023 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023, with no amount to be raised from taxation. (The ConVal School Board designates this article as a SPECIAL warrant article.) (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Doug Sutherland, Hancock, said that like the other articles this funds the Health Maintenance Trust Fund.

The Moderator asked if there was further discussion. There was none.

Moderator Edwards closed discussion on this article for further discussion.

Article 08: Accept Reports of Agents and Auditors

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District accept the reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees, and Officers chosen?

Crista Salamy said that this is a housekeeping article.

The Moderator asked if there was further discussion. There was none.

Moderator Edwards closed this article for further discussion.

Article 09: School Board Salaries

Shall the Contoocook Valley School District appoint the salaries of the School Board and fix the annual compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as follows: School Board Chair, \$1,500; each member, \$1,000; Treasurer, \$1,500; Assistant Treasurer; \$500; Moderator, \$300? (The ConVal School Board RECOMMENDS adoption of this article.)

Alan Edelkind, Dublin, moved to accept this article as written.

The Moderator asked if there was further discussion on the floor. There was none.

Moderator Edwards closed this article for further discussion.

Article 10: School Board Members

To choose Contoocook Valley School District Officers as follows: Six (6) Members of the School Board; one (1) from the Town of Antrim for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Bennington for a term of one (1) year; one (1) from the Town of Frankestown for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Hancock for a term of two (2) years; one (1) from the Town of Peterborough for a term of three (3) years; one (1) from the Town of Sharon for a term of three (3) years.

Moderator Edwards reported that there is no discussion, these are statutory.

Moderator Edwards recognized Dr. Stephen Ullman, School Board rep from Antrim for his three years of dedicated service, to Kevin Pobst, for this three years of service, and Douglas Sutherland for his service to the ConVal School District.

Jim Fredrickson moved to recognize these individuals for their service to the ConVal School District and community. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.

Moderator Edwards asked if there is any other lawful business that should come before this assembly.

Moderator Edwards called the meeting to adjourn after hearing both a motion from Jim Fredrickson and a second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok