

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Selectmen's Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, March 23, 2023**

**SAU Office Board Room  
7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Present:** John Robertson, Jeff Brown, George Willard, Carole Monroe, Bill Kennedy, Diane Callahan, Mike Borden, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Tim Grossi, Janine Lesser, Alan Edelkind

**1. Call to Order**

**John Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.**

**2. Approve Minutes of March 2, 2023**

**Jeff Brown moved to approve the minutes of March 2, 2023. George Willard seconded the motion. Unanimous.**

**3. Bill Kennedy**

Bill Kennedy reported that the Select Board in Peterborough received a letter from a high school student who is in the midst of a project at the high school called "Called to Action". She had come across a report that Peterborough had authorized about a renewal plan for the town. She had asked Bill about efforts going on in Peterborough to electrify among others. Bill had shared that recycling was an area of concern for this student. He shared that she claimed that the trash and recyclables are dumped together and she wondered what she might be able to do to stimulate recycling at the high school at a minimum, if not the district.

Tim Grossi shared that we have single stream recycling at our largest schools. These efforts began in 2009. Budget wise, we spend \$20K less today than 15 years ago. We do recycle, but it is not perfect. We provide containers for the teachers and for lunch rooms etc. Custodians know what goes where. Metal is scrapped if in large quantity or brought to the transfer station.

Small schools do not recycle unless there is a club overseeing it. Part of it is staff related.

In terms of other recycling efforts, #2 fuel oil used to average 187K gallons per year and now it is under 120K. HVAC work has benefited the district through conservation efforts. LED lights have been implemented throughout most of our buildings. With the potential of a renovation, it has not been pushed out completely. Solar panels have been implemented at the high school.

The conservation aspect of it is a big driver. We also went to propane buses vs. diesel.

Carole Monroe asked if some of the small schools wanted to do more would there be an objection to reaching out. Tim Grossi asked that he be the point of contact for that effort.

Bill Kennedy said that he would direct the student toward Tim Grossi. PrepNH.org is the website that might be visited to look at the comprehensive information.

John Robertson shared his curiosity about how many towns would be interested in becoming involved.

Carole Monroe said that Dublin has a recycling committee and they are eager to gear back up since COVID.

Community Power was discussed as a way to save money for electricity. One may opt in if they are an Eversource customer.

John Robertson reported that Antrim has been looking at solar to power the water treatment facility.

Bill Kennedy reported that town employees are well aware of the prep plan and they refer to the plan to look for ways to integrate savings in different areas. For example, the next police vehicle that will be purchased will be electric. 2050 is the target year for transportation.

Bill Kennedy shared his thanks for placing this on tonight's agenda.

#### **4. Community Forum Evaluation**

Alan Edelkind reported that the livestream recording of the forum can be viewed.

Alan reported that four presentations on the budget were delivered. One was the budget in detail, the next was a layman's view of the budget, the next was on the process of budget development, and the last was on the warrant articles.

The forum was less attended than other forums. The budget reflects a 1.35% increase.

Good questions were asked. One can attend in person or online and ask questions of the Moderator either way. The forum was followed up with a "Meet & Greet".

#### **5. Topics for April meeting**

John Roberson asked those present if they had any items for discussion for the April meeting. Please send items to John.

Mike Borden reported that he went to the board in Greenfield and they are interested if the school, through the budget process, could get the tax rate set by October 15th so that tax bills could be sent out on December 1st rather than at Christmas time.

Carole Monroe reported that this came up at Dublin's meeting as well. The tax bills need to go out so that the revenue can cover bills.

Janine Lesser said that there are certain things that hold things up; this year has been longer than usual.

Kimberly Saunders said that this is something that the district is aware of and will continue to work on. She said that she recognized that it is an area that can be improved.

Carole Monroe asked if we are prepared to have an update on the RFP process. This will be added to the next agenda. Carole asked what opportunities might be available from the towns to participate.

John Robertson polled those present if they are up for reelection. Some are but are running unopposed. John Robertson reported seventeen people signed up to run for open positions in Antrim.

#### **6. Other**

Kimberly Saunders reported that April 10th starts the trial for adequacy at the Rockingham County Courthouse in Brentwood.

Janine Lesser reported that Jim Fredrickson is managing a schedule for people interested in attending.

Mike Borden asked if the students at the high school are forced to share a bathroom based on gender identity.

Kimberly clarified that there are single use stalls, boys' and girls' bathrooms, and students are free to use the bathroom of the gender they identify. There are single use bathrooms if they are uncomfortable. Kimberly added that is an Executive Order and has never been changed. It has been in place at ConVal for a number of years. Students have not approached administration with issues; it has only been the parents.

#### **7. Adjourn**

**Jeff Brown moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Bill Kennedy seconded. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok