

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road

Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Immediately following Public Hearing @ 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, Janine Lesser,
Crista Salamy, Doug Sutherland,
Stephen Ullman

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Carrie James, H.R.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Ben Moenter, Special Ed.
Heather McKillop, CVHS

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Alan Edelkind called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Dick Dunning moved to enter into Non-Public Session at 7:07 p.m. for matters of personnel. Stephen Ullman seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Katherine Heck motioned to exit non-public session at 7:50 p.m. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.

3. Points of Pride

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

4. Public Comment

Robin Gregg, Hancock resident, recognized Doug Sutherland for stepping up to serve as the Hancock School Board Representative. She said her hat goes off to Doug and is grateful and blessed by his contributions on this board.

Agenda item 9f. Pineview Apartment request to change bus route stop was moved up on the agenda.

Kimberly Saunders referenced information about the request for a bus stop change. At this time, and in line with district policies, we do not change routes and we have a policy about stops. The request was brought to the bus company and to the Business Administrator.

The bus stop in question is .2 miles from the main parking lot. The stop is at the end of a sidewalk and is not public property, it is private. There are times that it is not cleared of snow. We go up closer for elementary students. The bus stop is at 7:09 a.m. for high school and returns students at 2:32 p.m. It is well lit. Prior to COVID, when we had more buses and more drivers, we did go up to the stop. The bus driver did go up on several occasions to accommodate a student at the time who was on crutches. Issues about creating stops was addressed.

In addition, drug activity was brought forward and was brought to the attention of the police department. The breakdown by grade of those students that take the bus was shared. It continues to be the recommendation not to change the bus stop. The parents are present to request the board to overturn the decision.

Gayle Bohl, was present to speak on behalf of herself and residents. She said that they want the health and well-being of our children considered. Going up and down the hill might seem a short distance, but it is not always a safe thing. Parents can look outside to see them at the top. She said that she used to work for the bus company but not on this route. The bus used to come up to the top of the hill all of the time. The route was changed after a substitute bus driver voiced the opinion that students should walk. And so, it was changed. Kids are not getting consistent transportation, it changes. The residents feel like they are not seen or heard and are being discriminated based on where they live.

Heather Dow, resident of Pineview, shared that she has five children in the ConVal School District. This is the only year, of ten years, that this has been a problem. We have more than ten children waiting at this bus stop. She has children with disabilities in social settings and group settings. This is a new thing this year that the stop has changed. Currently,

where the bus stop is located, you would not be able to see the bus stopped because of snow banks nor the children waiting. Ms. Dow shared concern with the age gap of the children waiting. If there are older children engaging in inappropriate language or behavior there are younger children present. The younger children would remain inside and wait for the bus to come up the hill when the bus came to the top. This would shelter them from behaviors of older children.

Daniella Dow shared that she asked her friends what things would make it better. They would like to be in the building where it is warmer. Sometimes kids would come late and miss the bus. There is no shelter. Speeding cars come around the corner. Sometimes we have to wait fifteen minutes for the bus.

Heather Dow said that they are located in the back of the high school and there have been animals seen. Having a visual on them for safety is a concern.

Transporting of large musical instruments was cited as a difficulty.

Dick Dunning said that he gets the point made; his vote would be to move the bus stop to the top of the hill.

Heather Dow said that we are talking about .2 miles and it makes a big difference. It is a short space and makes a huge deal to residents.

Jim Fredrickson said that we are talking about moving a spot and not adding a spot. Will others come forward to oppose moving the spot if it is moved.

Katherine Heck thanked them for coming to speak. It appears that 26 students are impacted. She asked for the timeline; when did it stop?

Kimberly Saunders said that the stop moved after consolidation of stops after COVID.

Katherine Heck asked when the stop was moved? Gayle said that she is not completely sure; it fluctuates. In January 2023 they were coming up the hill to pick up. It is not a lack of drivers or unable to do it, it is choosing not to do it. They have shown that they can successfully pick and bring students home up the hill.

Katherine Heck further asked the Superintendent about recent law changes. If it can be done within the law and our practice, it should be considered.

Doug Sutherland said that the policy states "approved bus stops". Why did this become unapproved?

Kimberly Saunders reported a fluctuation this year involving a student on crutches. The reason we are here today has to do with policy EEA. A student safety issue could not be found here.

Dick Dunning moved to instruct the Superintendent to direct the bus company to move the bus stop to the top of the hill.

Doug Sutherland seconded.

Jim Fredrickson asked if there was a cost associated.

Kimberly Saunders said that yes, everything has a cost.

Dick Dunning said that this is a minimal change to make lives easier and safer.

Kimberly Saunders said that the cost is not related to this bus stop but more will come forward for bus stop change requests. This will also hurt us on the law suit because it will be a decision made here and will be brought up.

In favor: Unanimous. Motion passed.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

- 1) February 21, 2023

b. Personnel

Dick Dunning moved to accept the Consent Agenda.

Stephen Ullman seconded.

Crista Salamy asked about a stipend for a sport that already happened. Kimberly Saunders said that that this has gone back and forth and comes tonight.

Unanimous.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. School Board Requests

- 1) Dublin Consolidated Enrollment
- 2) Historic Middle School Populations
- 3) Black History Month Information
- 4) All Previous Consolidation Materials

Kimberly Saunders reported that the information on the above School Board Requests are in the shared school board drive.

b. Committees and Committee Assignments

Kimberly Saunders said that she wanted to make sure what the committees are and the difference between standing and ad-hoc. There are seven standing committees; Budget & Property, Education, Policy, Strategic Planning,

Communication, Equity, and Selectmen's Advisory Committee. A description of the charge and responsibilities were shared.

Three Ad-Hoc; Discipline Review Committee, Food Service/Wellness, and Negotiations.

Manifest Review is conducted by one or two people. It has been conducted by the Chair of the Budget & Property Committee.

Each committee has an administration rep.

Please send Dick Dunning the committee that you are interested in serving on now.

Dick Dunning said that he would like to look at the committees with Kimberly and look at streamlining them to allow fewer committee meetings. If you want to stay where you are, say nothing. Otherwise, identify where you would like to serve.

Kimberly shared that there is also a Strategic Organization Committee.

c. Monthly Events Calendar

1) Negotiations Meeting

Negotiations will meet on Tuesday, March 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Kimberly Saunders recognized the service of outgoing Board members and thanked Doug Sutherland for his service to the board. Stephen Ullman was recognized for his service to the board as well. Both were thanked for their service and presented with a pen made by ATC students.

7. Reports

a. Student Representative – Katherine Craig

None.

b. Strategic Organization Committee – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported that five Requests for Information (RFI) were received. Three were selected to be included in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The remainder of the process was shared. RFI's can be seen in the shared drive.

c. Policy Committee – Crista Salmay

Crista Salmay reported having met on February 21st where discussion took place on policies that needed a refresh. Other policies were sent to Budget & Property or Education Committee as well as for legal review.

d. Selectmen's Advisory Committee – Janine Lesser

Alan Edelkind reported that discussion about the Community Forum took place and the responsibility asked of the towns to get the word out about it. Discussion took place about increasing participation from all of the towns on SAC. Agenda setting was discussed. The budget was also discussed.

e. Communication Committee - Community Forum Update - Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind said that the forum took place last night. He gave thanks to the presenters. The internal audience was attended by a few. Online views are near fifty. He thanked everyone for the work to make this a successful forum.

Dick Dunning said that the staff did a fabulous job. Information is worthwhile to bring back to new board members going forward.

8. Old Business

a. Legislative Update

Katherine Heck reported that there are 20 education related bills being heard. HB2 finally came out. HB1 is out as well. Anything with fiscal impact is being retained for now. Over the next two weeks, committee recommendations will come out. April 6th is crossover day. A better sense after Thursday will be had. There is a focus on the State budget.

Kimberly Saunders said that she will update the spreadsheet this weekend.

b. Region 14 Regional Agreement Revised

Kimberly Saunders referenced the revised agreement. It requires a vote to accept and then signed.

Katherine Heck moved to accept the Region 14 Regional Agreement Revised and allow the Board Chair to sign.

Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.

c. Policies 2nd Read/Adoption (Board Vote Required)

- IJL: Library Collection Development

Katherine Heck moved to adopt this policy. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.

- JLCD: Administration of Medication in Schools

Tom Burgess moved to adopt this policy. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.

- KEC: Instructional and Educational Media

Tom Burgess moved to adopt this policy. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

- IGE: Parental Objections to Specific Course Material

Tom Burgess moved to adopt this policy. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

9. New Business

a. Policies - 1st Read

- BBBF: Student Board Members

This policy was referenced as a first read. Send feedback to Kimberly Saunders or Crista Salamy.

b. Calendars SY' 23-24

Dick Dunning moved to accept the SY' 23-24 school calendar as presented.

Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

Kimberly Saunders shared the 12-month staff school calendar.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the 12-month paid staff calendar. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

c. Graduation Date

Kimberly Saunders proposed Friday, June 9th with a rain date of June 10th and June 11th if needed for ConVal High School graduation.

Katherine Heck reported having received feedback that graduation not be scheduled on a Friday night. It is difficult for families to attend and take time off. It requires people to get there early and does not fit with schedules.

Dick Dunning shared the same concern. It makes it hard for families.

Heather McKillop, CVHS Principal, said that graduation has been held on Friday night for the last two years because of COVID. Knowing the weather patterns in New England is helpful to plan with two rain dates. Having staff present is important to support students. Graduation late in the morning on a field with the sun beating is not ideal on a Saturday morning. This is to provide three potential options.

Katherine Heck said that family members cannot get there from out of town. Saturday had been traditional. It is overwhelming to take place on a Friday night and does not allow families to gather and celebrate afterward on a Friday night.

Dick agreed and said that Friday is difficult. He believes Friday is difficult for people to work during the day and for those that have to travel. He preferred Saturday. It should be for the ease of the parents. He hears that staff would attend more on a Friday than on a Saturday.

Katherine Heck shared the history that it would move into the gym if the weather was inclement. It is not easy or convenient but it is a proud moment for families.

Crista Salamy said that it is easier for families to prepare for a Saturday afternoon celebration or gathering. It is not the case on a Friday night. She also recognized that the field gets hot on a Saturday morning.

Dick Dunning moved to set graduation for Saturday, June 10th to allow families to meet and celebrate after graduation.

Katherine Heck seconded.

Kimberly Saunders said that if it is raining on Saturday that it be held on Saturday inside.

Janine Lesser asked how much has been done for a Friday graduation. Nothing until the date is set.

In favor: Alan Edelkind, Dick Dunning, Stephen Ullman, Tom Burgess, Doug Sutherland, Crista Salamy,

Katherine Heck, Janine Lesser

Jim Fredrickson abstained.

All others in favor.

Motion carried.

d. Last Day of School

Kimberly Saunders proposed the date for the last day of school for Friday, June 16, 2023.

Katherine Heck moved that Friday June 16th is the last day of school. Stephen Ullman seconded. Unanimous.

June 21st would be the contractual last day for staff.

e. District Special Education Coordinator Change in Days

Currently, there are four Special Ed Coordinators that support out of district students. The Out of District Coordinator is funded through grants currently.

Ben Moenter reported that there are two retirements that led to looking at this. Moving it from 214 days to a 260 day provides services that are covered through days worked beyond the school year currently. Budget impact is zero, or \$10K less than zero. These are positions that are already beyond the school year.

Kimberly Saunders added that often these staff need to come into the summer which requires per diem. Special Education is a full-time job now.

Dick Dunning said that once the positions are in place, what will the financial impact be.

Kimberly Saunders said that vacation time and benefits. They don't have an administrator contract. If they don't use the vacation days, they lose them. No carryover.

Katherine Heck moved to accept the justification for the change in this position to a 260 year-round position. Tom Burgess seconded. Unanimous.

f. Pineview Apartment Request to Change Bus Stop/Route

Discussed previously on agenda.

g. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

1) Great Brook School requests authorization to accept a check in the amount of \$615.00 from the Monadnock Roller Derby for the purpose of paying for students to go on the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip.

Dick Dunning moved to accept this gift with gratitude. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

10. Public Comment

Recap of Black History Month from School Board Requests - each school does different curricula. At the high school, it is integrated in the social studies offerings. At the elementary school level, it is specific and there is room for growth. Celebrating Black History month is often not celebrated but is studied. We also don't celebrate women's history month.

Doug Sutherland said that this is a national thing. He feels that because there are not a lot of people that look like him does not mean that it should not be celebrated. It includes Women's History Month, indigenous people etc. He said that we can choose better.

Robin Gregg said that she believes that it should be publicly proclaimed on school calendars. In addition, it is important to recognize these two months. We need to recognize women and black people on these two months. We will not grow without paying attention to black history and women's history among others.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests listed totaling \$4,103,633.33 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.

Jim Fredrickson moved to approve the Manifests as read. Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous.

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

Alan Edelkind moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II.

Dick Dunning seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Dick Dunning moved to exit Non-Public Session at 10:14 p.m. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

Jim Fredrickson moved to approve the increase in the Superintendent salary in July to increase by \$10,900.

Dick Dunning seconded.

Doug Sutherland opposed saying that the increase was not enough.

All others in favor. Motion carried.

Doug Sutherland thanked everyone for making his time on the board a welcome one and encouraged everyone to continue asking questions and keeping kids in mind. He recommended going into the schools. Try making different choices.

Dick Dunning moved to seal the minutes of both Non-Public sessions for a period of five years.

Tom Burgess seconded. Unanimous.

13 Adjourn

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 10:17 p.m. Jim Fredrickson seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok