

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Physical Location: SAU #1 Board Room

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ConValEvents>

Minutes

BOARD

William Bryk, Tom Burgess,
Richard Dunning, Alan Edelkind,
Dan Harper, Katherine Heck,
Michael Hoyt, Thomas Kirlin,
Greg Kriebel, Janine Lesser,
Crista Salamy, Liz Swan

ADMINISTRATION

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Kimberly Saunders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Introduction and Swearing in of Returning and New Board Members

Kimberly Saunders introduced Bob Edwards, School District Moderator, who proceeded to swear in new and returning board members who were called forward to be sworn in under oath.

Tom Burgess, Michael Hoyt, Greg Kriebel, William Bryk, and Dan Harper were sworn in.

3. Call for Election of Officers – Superintendent

Kimberly Saunders called for the election of the School Board Chair.

Alan Edelkind said that it is an honor and pleasure to nominate Dick Dunning as School Board Chairman. Katherine Heck seconded.

In favor: Katherine Heck, William Bryk, Liz Swan, Tom Burgess, Alan Edelkind, Janine Lesser, Greg Kriebel, Dan Harper, Mike Hoyt, Crista Salamy, and Tom Burgess.

Unanimous.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Dunning.

Mr. Dunning opened the nomination for Vice-Chair.

Katherine Heck moved that Alan Edelkind serve as Vice Chair.

Greg Kriebel seconded.

In Favor: Katherine Heck, William Bryk, Tom Burgess, Liz Swan, Dick Dunning, Janine Lesser, Greg Kriebel, Dan Harper, Mike Hoyt, Crista Salamy, Tom Burgess

Unanimous.

Dick Dunning shared a piece that he said speaks to what we hear that was given to him years ago. It was a piece on how communication can be interpreted and shared out differently than was originally intended.

Dick asked board members to speak one at a time and the Chair will recognize those wishing to speak.

Secondly, looking at subcommittees, a list was referenced. Education Committee will report directly to the Board once a month so that the board hears directly. Budget & Property will meet before the second board meeting of the month and Policy will meet before the first Board meeting of the month. Changes will be needed on the Policy on standing committees.

Kimberly Saunders said that the Policy Committee will have to review policy BDE and either rewrite it or make recommendations.

Crista Salamy asked for clarification that Policy will meet once a month. Dick Dunning confirmed.

4. Points of Pride

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

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) March 21, 2023

b. Personnel

1) June 2023 Resignations

2) Co-Curricular Notifications

Janine Lesser asked about a preschool teacher and Preschool Speech/Language resignation. It was confirmed.

Kimberly Saunders introduced Adam Caragher as the new Great Brook School Principal. He was one of six applicants. Dr. Saunders said that Adam was hands down the most qualified and best fit for Great Brook School.

Katherine Heck asked Adam what made him apply to the ConVal School District.

Mr. Caragher said that the new pursuit and a place to grow and learn and to help out was a draw.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Voting Results

Kimberly Saunders said that she was pleased with the voting results and read the percentage that each Warrant Article passed by.

b. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders said that there are outstanding school board requests. School board requests go directly to Dr. Saunders and she assigns it to the appropriate lead and reports back to the full board.

The School Resource Officer Presentation and Charlie the Dog are the two outstanding.

c. Monthly Events Calendar

The Monthly Events Calendars were updated.

Kimberly shared that each board member has received a Chromebook to receive information related to the work of the board. Log in with the ConVal.edu account and Board members will have access to the shared drive. Tutorials can be set up for training as needed.

Committees should elect a Chair at their first meeting and let Kimberly and Dick know who the Chair is.

Janine Lesser asked how Policy could get work done meeting once a month. Dick said that starting with one meeting will take place and changes can be considered if it doesn't work.

8. Reports

a. Student Representative – Katherine Craig

None.

Dick Dunning said that he would like to place this item up on the agenda to allow the student to share earlier on and leave when appropriate.

b. Communication Committee Meeting – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported that the Community Forum was discussed. The best thing about the forum were the presentations. He thanked those who presented.

There was low in house and online attendance. People were happy with the budget and they were also overwhelmed with all of the financial news out.

Alan Edelkind spoke about the delivery of information.

He spoke about communication on the Strategic Organization Committee. More to be determined about future communication delivery.

Discussion about the need for communications to the community from the board took place.

c. Selectmen's Advisory Committee Meeting – Janine Lesser

Janine Lesser shared that SAC was interesting in that the SAC had been encouraged to share information about what is going on in the towns. At this meeting, information was shared about a call to action from a CVHS student with an interest in recycling. Each of the communities shared information about recycling efforts in their towns.

Greenfield asked that the tax rates get to the towns by October 15th and discussion took place.

Carole Monroe inquired about the RFP and the opportunity for towns to participate. Towns will have an opportunity to participate.

The trial for adequacy will begin on April 10th. This will have an impact on tax bills.

A discussion took place about the shared bathroom policy at the high school.

Dick Dunning said that a number of years ago an article to look at reconfiguration and consolidating the ConVal Schools was asked. A neutral view from an outside resource was sought. The RFP's will return and a company selected in this effort. One of the board goals really needs to be to look at consolidation and bring this to closure.

9. New Business

a. Policy BDE: Committees and School Board Member Special-Duty Assignments

Kimberly Saunders referenced Policy BDE. Mr. Dunning has recommended changes to committee structure which is outlined in this policy.

Katherine Heck moved that we send Policy BDE to Policy Committee to study school committees and special duty assignments.

Greg Kriebel seconded.

Janine Lesser said that it doesn't make sense for this to go to policy until we know whether the changes proposed will work.

Dick Dunning said that we have a policy that states that we need to work a certain way.

Kimberly Saunders said that the policy could be suspended; BGF which would require a unanimous vote because it was not noticed on the agenda.

Greg Kriebel said that the only change being put forward is the Education Committee.

Greg said that if the Chair appoints everyone on the board on the committee it would be a work around that would not require change.

Katherine Heck said that a committee would be a subset of the larger group. It might not meet the legal test. She said that she is comfortable bringing this to Policy and coming back with a recommendation to the full board.

Dan Harper asked for clarification on Greg's suggestion. If everyone is assigned to a committee are the four assigned the core of the committee?

Katherine Heck said that this policy is an optional policy and communicates to the public how we function.

It is up to the board to decide how to function. It is within the board purview.

In favor to bring this to policy: Unanimous.

Dick Dunning said that one of his goals is for School Board meetings to end by 9:00, 9:30 at the very latest. If it doesn't work we can look at it differently. The agenda will be structured to be effective.

Katherine Heck shared a brief Legislative Update.

Katherine said that the full House will vote on the budget on Thursday. House finance made significant changes to education; expansions to the education freedom accounts were shared. School building aid would be eliminated in 2025 but Charter Schools could continue to receive. The Education Trust Fund is proposed for elimination. Base per pupil is proposed to move to \$4,700.00.

Dick asked Katherine to share contact information should the Board wish to make connections.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Dick Dunning said that the manifests will also move up on the agenda to assure that it will be addressed. Dick shared that two Board members review the manifest in advance of voting. Dick asked that Katherine Heck and Jim Fredrickson review the manifests moving forward. Katherine said that this is a statutory requirement of the State. It is state law.

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests listed totaling \$1,489,081.70 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.

Greg Kriebel moved to approve the Manifests as read. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.

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

- a. Negotiations**
- b. Legal**
- c. Personnel**

Dick Dunning shared that Non-Public is entered into by reciting your name once moved.

Alan Edelkind moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 7:55 p.m.

Katherine Heck seconded.

Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Janine motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 8:26 p.m. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

Motion to by Janine Lesser to pay suggested retirements for two staff. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Tom Burgess motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for ten years.

Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

13. Adjourn

Tom Burgess motioned to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok