

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

**Tuesday, May 16, 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,
Alan Edelkind, Jim Fredrickson,
Dan Harper, Michael Hoyt,
Thomas Kirilin, Greg Kriebel,
Janine Lesser, Crista Salamy

Katherine Craig, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Carrie James, H.R.
Kevin Proctor, A.D.
Jen Kiley, ATC

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Alan Edelkind called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Points of Pride

Kimberly Saunders shared various Points of Pride as reported to her by Administration. Dr. Saunders shared more information about the number of films accepted for the Film Festival. ConVal had four films accepted.

3. Student Representative – Katherine Craig

Katherine Craig reported on upcoming sporting events coming up. The Prom is this Saturday night in Keene. A spring craft fair will take place later this month at the high school. Other fundraising events were shared. Children of the Arts is this Saturday in downtown Peterborough.

4. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that manifests totaling \$2,576,490.81 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 presented. Greg Kriebel seconded the motion. Unanimous.

5. Public Comment

Alan Edelkind asked members of the public if they wished to speak. Speakers are allowed two minutes unless requested otherwise.

Mary Kaye Lake shared that she has been a ConVal parent for 12 years. She wanted to speak about ConVal swimming and asked for the boards support. Please support a motion to fast track the ConVal swim team and be supported in the budget. The request is for \$800 in a \$54 million budget.

Ms. Kinley said that the team status was called into question by Mr. Dunning. Swimmers were removed from posts and from the newsletter because the status of the team was called into question. She asked support for the swimmers who were unphased by board decisions they did not have control. They have been asked to take club status for three years. Minutes reflect back to when the girl's ice hockey team requested club status.

The best interest of participants is noted; not the best interest of the School Board. The team will continue to grow with support of the board.

Alan Edelkind asked the board to consider a request to allow an additional three minutes.

Janine Lesser moved to allow allowed three minutes. William Bryk seconded the motion.

Ellsworth Lake was present to share history of the CV Swim Team. CV swimming began as a result of the pandemic. Students were invited to compete with Keene for fun. Information was shared that ultimately allowed his daughter to compete. In 2021, the then Athletic Director asked if the student would be swimming. When Kevin Proctor took over in 2022, Mr. Lake shared information about the swim team. Knowing that more funds would be needed, he reached out to Katherine Heck for funds from the FCVA and were accepted into the group. When Dick Dunning brought up the question about the ConVal Swim Team the team lost their momentum and they were removed from the FCVA. Parents have been responsible for transportation. Although new to the board, these swimmers have been competing for three years. Making the swimmers figure out how to raise over \$800 for three more years could be a hardship.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) May 2, 2023

b. Personnel

1) Nominations

c. End of Year Schedule

Alan Edelkind asked the Board if there are any objections to the Consent agenda. None were shared. The Consent Agenda was accepted.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Public Hearings were scheduled on June 6th at 7:00 p.m.

b. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders polled board members to verify if they have been receiving School Board Request emails. She asked those who are not receiving them to stay after tonight's meeting.

c. Edith Bird Bass Volunteers

Kimberly Saunders reported hearing back from three Board volunteers. Janine Lesser, Tom Burgess and Katherine Heck have volunteered to read essays. Greg Kriebel also confirmed. The Guidance Department needs the selections by May 25th.

8. Reports

a. Strategic Organization Committee Meeting – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported that at the last meeting, discussion on RFP's received in terms of a grading system to rate the responses took place. Weighting each section was discussed. A weighted total score resulted. The results were very close.

The next step is to interview both companies as part of a final analysis. Both will interview in person next week. The contract will follow. An entire detailed analysis will be brought to the full board for a vote.

b. Communication Committee Meeting – Alan Edelkind

Alan Edelkind reported that one minor change to the reconfiguration/consolidation communication was made to make it clear that this is not entered into with preconceived notions about the outcome.

The communication will be sent out tomorrow to the Monadnock Ledger Transcript as a press release, Selectmen's Advisory Committee Members, ConVal news and to each school's newsletter.

Should a small school board happening publication be pursued? Since the public can attend meetings, it was decided not to move forward.

Tom Burgess shared that the idea discussed was having a short bio for each of the School Board members on the website. A lot of boards do have a short bio and photo to make it easier for people to connect with the board and communicate.

Lastly, a new committee chair was elected, which was Alan Edelkind.

c. Budget & Property Committee Meeting/FY22-23 Fund Reduction – Jim Fredrickson

Jim Fredrickson reported that discussion took place about work needed on the high school parking lot through use of trust funds.

The Homeland Security audit was discussed. Tim Grossi will attend a future board meeting to share more in a Non-Public Session.

Lastly, 23-24 fund retention was discussed. The information is provided in the shared School Board Drive to provide necessary information to make decisions. How much to retain and how much to return to taxpayers will need to be determined. This is the first time, as a board, that a vote on how much to retain can occur. Up to \$1M can be retained. The policy talks about how this money can be used.

Jim Fredrickson asked board members to read the white paper in the shared drive.

If the money is not used, it returns to the fund balance. The retention fund does not accumulate.

9. Old Business

a. Policies – 2nd Read/Adoption

EBCA: Crisis Prevention & Emergency Response Plans

Janine Lesser moved to adopt this policy as presented. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

b. Swimming

Alan Edelkind shared that after the last board meeting a recommendation was shared by Kevin Proctor to keep status quo and allow the team to represent ConVal as a status quo beginning in 23/24 as year one. Three years is asked to determine viability. \$800 is needed yearly to be raised by the athletes. If there is an issue with parents coming up with funds, the principal has determined a possible way to provide non-ConVal funding.

Janine Lesser moved to accept the recommendation of administration for the swim team.

Crista Salamy seconded.

Dan Harper said that he was concerned about cost and some students not being able to participate. Things fall through the cracks. He said that it should be fast tracked and ratified.

Janine Lesser asked about the policy.

Kimberly said that this is a long-standing procedure that dates back to at least ice hockey. The Board makes decisions about adding sports. That is what the policy states.

Crista Salamy said that it is important for her to see this policy; as long as she has been on the Board three years was required to become competitive. Other sports have had to go through the three-year period. She added that absent Katherine Heck and Dick Dunning tonight, she is uncomfortable deciding.

Kimberly said that it was never the intent for Equestrian to become a team. In addition, Kevin Proctor is present and has submitted a recommendation. She said that she understands that there has been some tension between FCVA and the swim team. Unless Katherine Heck is asked to present to the board that would be why you would want to hear from her.

Crista Salamy said that according to the Lakes' funds were committed at a Budget & Property meeting.

Jim Fredrickson said that a vote would not take place at a Budget & Property meeting; he was unaware of that position. He asked what the policy is. Last week funding provided by others was requested and tonight the district is being requested to fund.

Dan Harper shared that his feeling is that kids who need these funds don't readily come forward to ask. Swimming is a lifelong activity. He asked to let the kids swim as part of the ConVal program.

Janine Lesser asked Kevin Proctor why we wouldn't be going back to 20/21 as the starting point.

Kevin Proctor said that his reasoning is that since the School Board approval was not gained, coupled with the conflict this year, he generated the proposal to assure it to pass and for swimming to continue. He wants to make sure the swimmers can continue to do what they have been doing. He said that discussion took place with the swimmers. He wants to make sure it passes.

Jim Fredrickson said that the January 10th meeting minutes were shared from Budget & Property and a vote was not taken.

JJIB was read relative to the discussion. The three-year period has been a long-standing requirement but is not in the policy.

William Bryk moved that we strike the content of the motion that is before us and replace it with language that we adopt the swim team now and allocate \$800 to fund it.

Greg Kriebel seconded the motion.

Janine Lesser added that to honor the procedure and standing tradition to count the years that the team has been in operation and start with 2021 resulting in this being the third year. This would meet the requirements.

Janine withdrew her original motion and Crista Salamy withdrew her second.

Janine Lesser said that she was unsure if William's motion is the right one. We want to say that the 2020/2021 year is the first year.

Greg Kriebel said that he fully supports this but wanted to make sure that he understood that the cost is \$800. Are students or parents responsible for transportation? That would add more to the budget. He asked about liability.

Kevin Proctor said that right now, with the Keene relationship, our athletes transport to practice similar to hockey and skiing. The district does not compensate for those. The \$800 mentioned includes the cost that Keene asks ConVal for transportation. It would not increase. It is split among the schools and Keene handles it. Greg Kriebel asked if the \$800 is what we are looking at.

\$150 to register school at NHIAA and \$650 raised for transportation totaling \$800.00 is asked.

Kimberly Saunders said that no one is asking to start a team from scratch but rather to continue the current relationship. If we were going to start our own swim team it would be significantly more expensive. There is no plan to bring a ConVal only swim team forward.

Kevin Proctor confirmed that the swimmers have a strong relationship with their coach. It is a challenging sport to offer because of pool availability. Keene High School has a great relationship with Keene State College making it more feasible.

Kevin Proctor said that piggy backing allows students to represent ConVal and show their pride.

Kimberly Saunders asked for clarification about other schools that do this with Keene.

Kevin Proctor said that Monadnock does this as well with Keene. Other examples with other sports were shared.

Jim Fredrickson suggested language to establish a ConVal Swim Team that continues the piggy back relationship.

Janine said that we don't want to establish a team.

Kimberly said that you want to say that you recognize the three prior years of participation and that we will support this through piggy backing with Keene.

Jim Fredrickson moved that "In recognition of the past three years of activity, to establish the ConVal Swim Team that continues the "Piggybacking" relationship with Keene High School and to provide requested funding estimated at \$800 for the 2023-2024 school year"

William Bryk withdrew his motion in favor of the motion just stated.

Greg Kriebel withdrew his former second and seconded the motion.

Unanimous.

Crista Salamy said that JJIB should be reviewed to take a look at it and the three-year requirement. Making sure that it is clear is important.

c. ATC Capital Campaign

Kimberly Saunders referenced information regarding the Capital Campaign. Board permission is needed to move forward. Any questions for the ATC Director?

Janine Lesser said that Jen Kiley once said that there are companies in the area interested as potential donors.

Jen Kiley confirmed that two companies are interested in donating should this be approved.

Kimberly said that we have to get a certain percentage of funding, which would include fundraising, to qualify for matching funds.

Jen Kiley said that it also includes donations in kind for equipment. She said that no other center has done a Capital Campaign to limit the burden for taxpayers.

Janine Lesser moved to accept the Capital Campaign as presented by administration.

William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

10. New Business

a. Field Trip Proposal (Board Vote Required)

- 1) ConVal Regional High School, 11-12th grade students, travel to Orlando, FL from June 26 to July 2, 2023. Students will compete at Education Rising Nationals Conference and attend workshops.

Greg Kriebel moved to approve the field trip as proposed. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

2) ConVal Regional High School, Class of 2024 Senior Trip to Quebec, Canada for 3 days/2 nights to promote camaraderie.

Greg Kriebel moved to approve the field trip as proposed. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

b. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

1) Great Brook School requests authorization to accept \$2,157.43 from the Antrim Trust Fund for the purpose of purchasing a "Scrim" curtain for the Great Brook School stage.

William Bryk moved to accept the donation as requested. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

2) South Meadow School requests authorization to accept \$1,000 from Constance Heinz (Renew Church) for the purpose of community assistance (helping families in need.)

Greg Kriebel moved to accept these funds as requested. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

c. Expense and Encumbrance Report – Lori Schmidt

Lori Schmidt brought attention to two lines related to Special Education Services. Does the Board prefer budget transfers to balance these lines out (\$230K) or look to the Special Education Trust Fund? These arose out of unanticipated student needs.

Jim Fredrickson suggested moving this to the trust fund.

Kimberly said that this could be added to the June 6th Public Hearing. Confirmed.

Jim Fredrickson moved to accept the Expense Report and the encumbrances therein. Seconded. Unanimous.

11. Public Comment

Sophia Lake thanked the Board for accepting to continue the ConVal Swim Program.

Jim Fredrickson noted that there is \$377K in the Co-Curricular Trust Fund and that the \$800 for the swim team be funded through the trust. Confirmed.

12. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A: 3, II

Greg Kriebel motioned to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3,II at 8:11 p.m. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Motion to exit Non-Public Session was made. Seconded. Unanimous.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok