

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road

Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Immediately following Public Hearings (3) @ 7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: SAU #1 Board Room

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

Minutes

BOARD

William Bryk, Tom Burgess,
Dick Dunning, Alan Edelkind,
Jim Fredrickson, Dan Harper,
Katherine Heck, Thomas Kirlin,
Janine Lesser

Katherine Craig, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Lori Schmidt, B.A.
Carrie James, H.R.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Tim Conway, SMS
Larry Pimental, PES
Kris Levesque-Lee, PES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Dick Dunning called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Points of Pride

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

3. Student Representative – Katherine Craig

Katherine Craig reported that the in-school concert included both band and choral performances. The New Hampshire Scholars event was recently held with 77 seniors recognized. In addition, the craft fair held recently went well.

Break the Silence 5K run had an incredible turnout in support of Suicide Prevention.

Performing Arts Awards “Lucie’s” recognized students who excelled. Lastly, class elections recently took place.

Katherine Craig was recognized for her service to the board as Student Representative.

Katherine thanked everyone for giving her the insight as to what goes on at the board level.

4. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Lori Schmidt certified that the manifests listed, totaling \$3,044,016.71, 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. Alan Edelkind seconded. Unanimous.

5. Public Comment

Alicia Griffiths, Peterborough parent with an incoming fourth grade student, was present and requested that the number of teachers at PES not be reduced. Keeping the number of teachers for incoming fourth grade students is what they would like to do.

Mr. Chism, Peterborough, said that he has a daughter entering 4th grade. This is his family's first year here. The size of the class here was a draw to Peterborough. He shared that his daughter was able to catch up with the rest of her class and excel with the smaller class size to allow teachers to address areas of growth.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) May 16, 2023

b. Personnel

1) Nominations

Kimberly Saunders reported that three new principals will be joining the district. Alisha Hansen at Pierce School, Nicole Pease will be returning to DCS, and Rachel Lunan Hill will join FES.

c. June 1, 2023 Enrollment Update

The Consent agenda was accepted.

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Kimberly Saunders reminded that ConVal High School Graduation is Saturday, June 10th at 10:00 a.m. Board members who plan to attend and have not RSVP'd should do so with Kimberly before the end of tonight's meeting.

The All-Staff celebration is on the 16th at 1:30 p.m.

b. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders reported all caught up on School Board Requests.

c. Research Project

Kimberly Saunders reported that a student from Lesley University, and also a staff member, is pursuing their PhD and has requested a Research Project. It is recommended to approve that project.

Janine Lesser moved to approve the research project as recommended by administration.

William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

d. Equity Goal Report Out

Kimberly Saunders referenced information about the charge and recommendation for an RFP related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility.

The board will need to make decisions about the Strategic Plan and this begins that work.

The board was asked to read it over and it will be brought forward at the next board meeting.

Who will carry this out? Dick Dunning said that the full school board would.

Kimberly Saunders said that there is the potential to ask for additional staffing. There have been shifts in enrollment.

Part of it is the need for a teacher in Dublin because of the way that the fifth grade will integrate.

An increase at the second-grade level is needed at PES. The 4th grade is on the cusp of needing someone. Kindergarten numbers are also being watched. Kindergarten teachers may need to be moved around based on numbers.

In addition, enrollment at the second-grade level at Hancock Elementary may result in additional needs.

Eight positions were cut with the potential to add four back.

Dick Dunning said that he would like to see a motion that addresses his concern at the fourth grade at PES. He is concerned about equity across the district.

A motion to reinstate the fourth-grade teacher that was reduced was suggested. The following year, the fourth-grade class would require an additional teacher. Continuity is important.

Janine Lesser moved to reinstate the fourth-grade teacher at PES. William Bryk seconded.

Kimberly Saunders shared that at PES, there will be 22 students in the second grade in each class totaling 44. 4th grade will be at 40 putting them just under the guideline of 20-22 in a class.

The motion is to add one teacher at the fourth-grade level.

Kimberly said that we always budget for an extra teacher. An analysis of our delta is strong. The delta is the difference between what we budgeted for and having a staff member leave and bringing in another teacher. We are in a good position.

Dick Dunning said that there are two critical parts; the equity across the district and the continuity of study which is critical.

The motion is to reinstate a 4th grade teacher at PES.

**Dan Harper abstained because he has a grandchild in that class. All else in favor.
Motion carried.**

Kimberly Saunders asked the board to consider adding a second-grade teacher at PES.

Janine Lesser moved to add a second-grade teacher at PES. Katherine Heck seconded.

This would use half of the delta.

Dan Harper said that he is receiving concerns at HES about the population and combined classrooms. At some point he said that he would like to discuss Hancock.

Unanimous to add a second-grade teacher at PES.

Kimberly Saunders requested that at DCS, in order to accommodate reasonable class size, to add one teacher.

Janine Lesser moved that we add a teacher at DCS for the fifth-grade combination.

Jim Fredrickson asked for the history of fifth grade at DCS.

Kimberly Saunders said that for the last two years there has not been a fifth grade. This year, five students will remain in Dublin. Until 2026, we would continue if there were a certain number of students.

Unanimous.

8. Reports

a. Selectmen's Advisory Committee Meeting – Katherine Heck

Katherine Heck reported that the topics of discussion were set by the Selectman's Advisory Committee. They are excited to collaborate and share information about what is going on in their communities.

b. Strategic Organization Committee Meeting – Dick Dunning

Dick Dunning reported that the committee met and interviewed two companies to come forward. One has been selected. More to come in tonight's non-public session for negotiations.

9. Old Business

a. Consolidation/Reconfiguration RFP

More to come when more information is available to come forward.

10. New Business

a. Permission to Hire

Kimberly Saunders said that it is that time of year where staff need to be hired at the drop of a hat. The board traditionally gives her the authority to hire so that we don't lose staff to other districts.

**William Bryk moved to allow the Superintendent to hire during the summer. Janine Lesser seconded.
Unanimous.**

11. Public Comment

None.

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

a. Negotiations

**William Bryk moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 7:55 p.m.
Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.**

Janine Lesser motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 8:15 p.m. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

**Janine Lesser motioned to authorize the Superintendent to transfer students as requested.
Tom Burgess seconded. Unanimous.**

**Janine Lesser motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for a period of ten (10) years.
William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.**

Dick Dunning reported on a social meeting with the Union that he said went well. A CVEA Representative will attend one School Board meeting a month next year.

Dick Dunning said that School Board members are encouraged to visit schools by letting Kimberly Saunders know in advance.

Jim Fredrickson said that negotiations will begin next year.

13. Adjourn

William Bryk motioned to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok