

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road

Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Work Session

SAU BOARD ROOM

NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

6:00 p.m.

(School Board Meeting immediately following)

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

Minutes

BOARD

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

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Brian Cisneros, B.A.
Tim Grossi, Facilities

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Dick Dunning called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. 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 6:02 p.m. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Greg Kriebel moved to exit Non-Public Session at 6:40 p.m. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Greg Kriebel motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for a period of five years. Dan Harper seconded. Unanimous.

3. Board Self-Assessment

Kimberly Saunders said that she is present to facilitate the discussion about the board and board practice. It is not an assessment of administration. It is an evaluation of the board and how you work toward your goals.

The steps for Board Self-Assessment were outlined starting with goal setting, monitoring, summative assessment and commitment to new objectives. It is a process that goes around and around.

The Board's job is to set goals for the district and approve the goals of the Superintendent.

The board was asked to decide for Standard 1 if they exceeded, met, or if improvement is needed. The group will decide together for each standard.

After determining, evidence should be cited that resulted in the determination.

Standard 1 - Exceeds and meets were shared from the various groups as input on how the Board performed at this standard.

Five felt that the board exceeded this expectation.

Seven felt that that the board met this goal.

Examples include board meetings, open community forum, meet and greets, and live streaming as well as the strong effort to have two-way communication with the public.

Standard 2 - Set and communicate high expectations for student learning with clear goals and objectives.

Two meets and two need improvements were recorded.

Test scores are lower than they should be. The standard asked if the board set and communicated. If the communication did not get delivered could that feed into why the scores were lower?

The Strategic Plan aided in meeting this goal.

Meeting the goal was exemplified by the constant voice that all students can succeed.

Needs improvement does not provide visibility of education and curriculum.

Seven board members said that they felt that this standard need improvement.

Gray areas were cited and individual perspectives.

Five board members felt that this standard is being met.

What needs improvement? We set high expectations but did we communicate those expectations? Could we do a better job including this information to be more public?

Crista Salamy made a point that the Education Committee is no longer intact so that view is absent.

Crista said that the entire Board was meant to be part of education and that needs improvement. Everyone should understand more about curriculum, benchmarks, and what is being done and what is missing.

Dick Dunning shared the reason to bring it to the full board.

Standard 3 - Create conditions district-wide for student and staff success.

Three board members felt that the board met this standard and one felt it needed improvement.

Losing good staff because we don't have the resources to keep staff was cited. We need to improve to get the resources.

Meeting the standard was evidenced by the willingness to reopen negotiations, improve safety in schools, staff development funding and robust professional development offerings, and a technology plan that is supported. Addressing safety issues is part of this assessment.

Eleven board members felt that the standard is being met.

One felt that the standard needed improvement.

Standard 4 - Hold the school district accountable for meeting student learning expectations.

Three groups felt that the standard was being met. The fourth group was in the middle of meeting and needed improvement due to the math scores in the district; what is the plan to move that forward?

The Board felt that this standard, overall, was being met.

Standard 5 - Engage the local community and represent the values and expectations they hold for their schools.

Three felt the goal was being met (with one weighing in with a minus) and one reported that the standard is exceeded.

The consulting firm, community forums, live streaming board meetings is the evidence.

Collaborating with the community was seen as an impossible task at times.

Majority felt that the standard was being met.

Good discussion took place with an open dialogue with the ability to look at the challenges and strong points.

4. Goals

a. Approval of Superintendent Goals

Five domains of Effective District Leadership were shared. The goal setting process was shared.

Update on Goal 1 - Math Achievement:

- In excess of 70% of this goal has been met at the elementary level. Work needed at the middle school. The percentage decreased at the high school level; work to learn why is needed to determine the reason for the decline.

Update on Goal 2 - Behavioral Goal

- Each of the schools have developed a behavior matrix, identifying a universal screener is underway. Next year's steps include behavioral goals.

Update on Goal 3 - Equity and Inclusion Goal.

New Goal is by May 2024 to create, implement and share data as it relates to staff perceptions based on survey(s) with an 80% return rate. Addressing staff concerns using a good survey is the goal.

Does standardized tests have any teeth for the student? ConVal does not use high stakes testing so there is no consequence for testing poorly.

The need for tests to have a purpose to encourage students to do their best was mentioned.

Vote/sense of the Board on the Superintendent's Goals -

In favor: Unanimous.

Opposed: None

b. Board Goal Setting

Dick Dunning shared a video of Peter, Paul, and Mary singing a song about playing in right field in a baseball game.

The goal is to make all students, staff, and administration feel good about who they are.

We have a reconstruction/consolidation plan, curriculum changes, a building/construction plan. Dick suggested that these be the three goals.

Janine Lesser said that reconstruction and building need to be goals. She asked what would be done about the curriculum.

Dick said that the board should be well informed about curriculum.

Crista Salamy said that curriculums go through a cycle. Student performance in all areas would be looked at. She said that it is important to know how they are working to fix any issues.

Dan Harper said that negotiations might be a goal.

Dick said that is a year and a half out. It may become one.

Janine Lesser said that a huge concern is the way that public schools are being portrayed in the general public. She said that the huge majority are supportive of public schools but sees no pushback to clarify what public schools actually are and what they do. There might be a role for the School Board to counteract that. If we don't step forward she is unsure who might. What can the board do that administration and staff cannot? The board are public figures. She does not want to do this in a political way but rather share the place they have in communities. She offered this as a new goal.

Dick Dunning asked how this would come about. Suggestions were to meet with Selectboard at their meetings, wear buttons, etc.

Dick suggested that this be brought up with specific suggestions. It might not be a goal but efforts can be made.

Recap goals:

1. consolidation/reconfiguration
2. CTE & Middle school renovation/construction/modernization
3. education

Kimberly Saunders suggested having board members put these into sentences and bring them to the next board meeting. Dick confirmed.

Crista Salamy asked if middle school renovation might be put off until the potential for consolidation and reconfiguration is studied.

Kimberly said that we are not prepared to put any type of bond article on the 2024 Warrant; it would have to wait until 2025.

Jim Fredrickson said that the building committee might provide an update on the projects.

Dick asked board members to send any additional goals they might suggest to him.

5. Adjourn

William Bryk motioned to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok