

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road

Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 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, Dan Harper,
Michael Hoyt, Thomas Kirlin,
Greg Kriebel, Janine Lesser,
Erin Pils-Martin

Lucy Jackson, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Brian Cisneros, B.A.
Alisha Hansen, BES
Rachel Hill, FES
Heather McKillop, CVHS
Larry Pimental, PES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Dick Dunning recognized Lucy Jackson, senior student at ConVal High School, who will serve as the Student Representative to the School Board.

Lucy Jackson introduced herself to the Board and shared that Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO's) as one of her favorites.

Lucy reported out on the start of the school year. She said that ConVal is a good school community. *Cougar Cares* helps build community. Recently, there was great turnout with students running and showing interest in ConVal Tackles Hunger, a food donation effort to support local food banks.

Lastly, a mini college fair took place where students could look at options beyond high school.

2. Points of Pride

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

3. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Brian Cisneros certified that manifests listed totaling \$1,801,631.78 have been reviewed by him 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 motioned to approve the Manifests as presented. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

4. Public Comment

Doug Sutherland, Hancock, said that he was present to support his daughter and other students by staying aware of things going on in the ConVal School District.

Second, to support the ConVal Board and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access & Belonging (DEIAB) effort. The board works hard to make the best possible decisions for all stakeholders. This will not go away.

Doug shared a situation between equal and equitable treatment. The "N" word is not acceptable to be used and should be considered "hate speech" Is saying sorry enough? Others that look like him are dealing with situations such as this. Equality is one thing, equity is knowing that this is different. Is sorry enough to alleviate the fear? He encouraged the board to ask the questions for those not at the table.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) September 5, 2023

b. Personnel

1) 2023-2024 Nominations

2) June 2025 Retirements

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

Policy Committee will meet on Tuesday at 6:45. Other dates on the calendar were shared.

Dick Dunning invited School Board members to meet with administrators on Thursday, October 12th from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at the Monadnock Country Club.

b. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders reported being all caught up on School Board Requests.

c. Research Project Notification

Kimberly Saunders reported on a research project involving mixed methods research looking at the unintended consequences of 1:1 paraprofessionals.

d. Curriculum Renewal

Dr. Ann Forrest shared a slideshow on Curriculum Renewal. A focus for curriculum renewal this year surrounds a decision that was made last year not to have a smaller group meet as the Education Committee but rather make the entire board the Education Committee. The education work is the most important work that you do. This allows more people to be informed.

District Policy IGA – Curriculum Development provides guidance on how to approach this. Two key facts include that the Assistant Superintendent is responsible for curriculum development and assessment and the board will make final decisions on curriculum renewal and adoptions.

A five-year plan was outlined. A halt to curriculum renewal was in place during COVID. The intent is to catch up and get back to this cycle. Further revisions will take place this year.

The board makes curriculum decisions based on the curriculum renewal cycle and assessments.

The Assessment Model was shared which was broken into classroom assessments, grade-level and subject area common assessments, benchmark assessments, and State assessments. Data is collected about people, practices, and perceptions. Non-negotiable is a commitment to all students.

Pilots happening this year include K-6 Math Program Pilots. DEIA factors into this work. How can we better meet the needs of all students always comes into view?

Pilots include a K-6 math pilot using two programs; Illustrative Mathematics and Eureka Math2.

Consistency of programming PK-8 or K-8. The two programs selected are highly rated by independent reviewers as shared in edreport.com. Minimizing the negative impact that piloting programs can have on students' learning is important.

Heather McKillop, CVHS Principal, reported that grade 9 students are piloting a Social-Emotional learning curriculum called School-Connect. It is evidence based. It is geared more toward the secondary level.

An Evaluation Report outcome was outlined. It is more than just a diploma to land a job in the workforce.

School-Connect has eight modules and is anticipated to expand. Eighteen lessons in the first two modules will be taught to this year. Each end with a project-based learning task. The program can be expanded. The lessons are 25 minutes each allowing time to engage with students afterward. Delivery will be administered by a duo where teachers are paired with a counselor or administrator.

School-Connect Lesson plans were outlined.

The program includes a Student Skill Assessment survey that will be administered in the fall and spring with parent permission.

Outcomes were outlined.

Program Reviews include English Language Arts and Social Studies.

Curriculum Adoption – Policy IGD – states that a course of study cannot be added or taken away without School Board approval nor can substantive change occur without board approval.

A pilot titled "Achieving Health Through Yoga" was discussed and voted in January 2023.

Policy IJ Instructional Materials Adoption – the board does not approve instructional materials.

Digital resource availability has exploded – ConVal processes resources to assure data is protected before it can be used educationally. Data Privacy Agreements are required.

What can the Board expect this year?

- A revised 5-year curriculum plan prior to the full-day budget session in November
- Updates on, and outcomes of, current pilots
- Findings and recommendations from program reviews
- If needed, the addition or elimination of any courses of study
- Any significant changes.

Dick Dunning said that this provides a picture of the responsibility of the board.

7. Reports

a. Policy Committee – Katherine Heck

Dick Dunning reported that Katherine will be Chair and will meet and provide a report out moving forward.

b. Budget & Property Committee –

Jim Fredrickson reported only one rep attended the last meeting. Budget Guidance was discussed. Mark Schaub joined the meeting and talked about the IT Plans for upcoming years. The Plan, similar to the CIP, will be shared moving forward several times during the year.

Looking at Use of Facilities Policy was suggested by Tim Grossi...more to come.

Kimberly Saunders said that the multi-year plans go in the budget book every year.

Jim Fredrickson said that it is important to have a line of sight into the modernization and facilities.

8. Old Business

a. Budget Guidance

Input was gathered. Jim Fredrickson said that work needs to begin.

Maintaining status quo, or a level services budget is the plan. Any possible additions to baseline budget will be discussed and voted. Deletions will also be considered. Jim Fredrickson asked if there are any significant programs that we want to add to the base budget?

Kimberly Saunders said that last year a whole Strategic Plan was adopted; clarification is needed. It is an aggressive plan.

Jim said that those things should be clearly identified outside of the budget.

Kimberly said that the Data and Equity Position, Social/Emotional pieces and aggressive academic non-negotiables that we have set out for students are examples that require staffing and funds.

Dick Dunning said that the board has to give this guidance to administration. What does Kimberly do with additional things outside of the baseline budget? The board will make decisions.

Jim Fredrickson said that next year is the third year of the Collective Bargaining Agreement adding over \$800K, CIP of 1% of operating budget or \$550K, escalation is estimated at 3% over operating budget including the CVEA. \$1.6M would be total increase.

Anything else that will add to the baseline needs consideration. We have fixed costs and we have other things that are negotiated. 3% can be a guidance. The board would need to agree. There may be an impact that will cause the 3% to be different.

Kimberly Saunders said that the transportation situation needs to be discussed. Clarity needed goes back to the Strategic Plan. Is the Strategic Plan an add on? Is the Capital Improvement Plan an add on?

Dick Dunning said that we have a Strategic Plan and voted to support it. What will it cost to support the plan approved? Guidance comes from status quo and additional items and the impact of the Strategic Plan.

Kimberly Saunders said that 3% will only happen if we cut staff.

Dick Dunning said that is the last thing we would support. We would need to look at the impact of potential reorganization.

b. Delegate Assembly

Erin Pils-Martin will represent the board.

9. New Business

a. Policies – 1st Read

- JICA: Student Dress Code

This policy comes before the Board for a first read. Please let Kimberly or Katherine Heck know of any suggested changes.

Dan Harper said that Alan Edelkind has asked him to share information about the process underway with Prismatic Services and the reconfiguration study. Mailings have gone out. The survey is live. If a town has not placed the survey link on their website, please encourage them to do so. Meetings in Sharon and Greenfield

take place this week. Board members should attend the meeting in their town. He suggested that the Board member introduce Tatia Prieto, Prismatic Services, at the meetings. If you cannot be at your town's meeting, let Alan Edelkind know.

b. Certificate of Authority – Brian Cisneros

A board vote is needed for Dick Dunning to sign the Certificate of Authority to allow Brian Cisneros to enter into contract with the State of NH relative to food service and agriculture.

Greg Kriebel moved to authorize the School Board Chair to sign the Certificate of Authority. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

10. Public Comment

None.

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

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

Motion to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 8:15 p.m. Seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Greg Kriebel motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 8:54 p.m. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.

Budget Guidance – Dr. Kimberly Saunders said that transportation this year has been challenging. \$450K in additional transportation costs is a reality. We will continue to have transportation issues.

Discussion took place about possible scenarios. One of which included the potential of transporting K-12 together.

Caution about doing too much at once was advised. Time on the bus is a factor as well.

Janine Lesser said that there are more unknowns than usual. She suggested doing what normally would be done (contractual, present staffing, utility increases etc.) and any new items e.g. CIP, Strategic Plan would be put in as an addition e.g. capital improvements with a justification.

Budget to maximum exposure or use trust funds for health insurance are possibilities.

Mike Hoyt agreed with Janine Lesser that you put together the budget as you would usually and make a list that can be prioritized.

Kimberly Saunders reminded the board that our budgets have come in well under inflation for the past six years. Janine Lesser said that we are dealing with diminishing funds from the State. We have a lawsuit. We know that we have a huge capacity problem and are looking at reconfiguration that impacts budget and education. It takes time.

Janine Lesser motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for negotiations for five years. William Bryk second. Unanimous.

12. Adjourn

William Bryk motioned to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok