

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 28, 2023

**SAU Office Board Room
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

Present: Mike Borden, Jeff Brown, Bob Edwards, William Kennedy, Carole Monroe, Dick Dunning, Alan Edelkind, Dan Harper, Katherine Heck, Dr. Kimberly Saunders

1. Call to Order

Bill Kennedy opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Bill asked committee members to send topics for future meeting agendas to him.

2. Approval of August 17, 2023 minutes

Mike Borden motioned to approve the minutes of August 17, 2023. Bob Edwards seconded. Unanimous.

3. Report on Prismatic Services town listening sessions

Bill Kennedy thanked everyone for all of the efforts made to get this process underway.

Alan Edelkind reported over 1,000 responses to the survey, which has been extended an extra week. The sixth town meeting of the nine towns is taking place tonight. Attendance has been excellent. The location of the meetings has been positive. Prismatic Services is also pleased with the meetings as well. Focus groups and interview meetings have been going well. The second meeting will take place in October, which will be a Zoom online meeting.

Bill Kennedy asked if an interim report will be released. Alan Edelkind said an interim report may come forward but the report will be released in December.

Carole Monroe asked if anything is anticipated to be on the March ballot. Alan Edelkind said that he does expect something on the ballot in March.

Jeff Brown asked what kind of turnouts are seen at the town meetings.

Alan Edelkind reported near twenty people at Sharon which was great for a small town without a school in their town. Greenfield and Frankestown had good turnouts with near 60 people in attendance each. Jeff Brown said that it is important to get people's input.

Alan Edelkind shared the format of the town meetings.

Bob Edwards reported near 60 people in attendance as well in Antrim. Just over 1,300 flyers were mailed out. There were conflicting meetings for some that night. It became a social event.

Mike Borden reported that 750 flyers were mailed in Greenfield. The online survey was available at the meeting as well.

Bill Kennedy said that most towns have done their gatherings. What is the next step?

Alan Edelkind said that the online meeting is coming up. It is a forum for all of the towns, at once, to go online with Prismatic Services. The towns will get involved. The date will be released as soon as available. There will always be conflicts.

4. Other

Kimberly Saunders said that End 68 Hours of Hunger will be reaching out to towns. They feed 192 families currently on a weekly basis for those that have food insecurity. They are a very worthwhile endeavor. It is one of the more important things that we do. Kimberly said that she could bring demographic information. Rural poverty looks different. We have families who have significant food insecurity.

Every town has donated toward End 68 Hours. The organization works with the district to connect food with students.

Katherine Heck said that through your (the town's) budget process donations can be made, it is not uncommon. Katherine said that she works with Tackle Hunger which serves all of the ConVal towns. There is a huge uptick in the welfare budget; food pantries are starting to feel it. WIC and SNAP will expire with a government shutdown.

Kimberly Saunders said that all eight elementary schools qualify for fresh fruit and vegetables through the state. They bring in apples, bananas, and peppers for snacks.

Bob Edwards said that in Antrim, the churches support End 68 Hours of Hunger. He encouraged Selectman to make their towns aware that they are looking for something.

Carole Monroe said that Dublin does something similarly, they put a warrant article that is now capped because it can be an expensive proposition.

Bill Kennedy said that Peterborough includes it in the budget and not a warrant article.
Any other business?

It was asked if meetings could begin earlier. 7:00 was the earliest possible.

Mike Borden motioned to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Jeff Brown seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok