

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road

Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 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, Alan Edelkind,
Jim Fredrickson, Dan Harper,
Katherine Heck, Michael Hoyt,
Thomas Kirlin, Greg Kriebel,
Janine Lesser, Erin Pils-Martin,
Liz Swan

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Brian Cisneros, B.A.
Beth Gibney, AES
Rachel Hill, FES
Adam Caragher, GBS

Cheryl Jessie, CVEA

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.

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 totaling \$505,456.76 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 read. Katherine Heck seconded.

Unanimous.

4. Public Comment

Carl Eckleson, Dublin, spoke with regard to closing/reconfiguration of the schools. He asked the board about the \$150K that was paid for the company to conduct the study. Was it voted, where did the money come from? Why didn't a more local group conduct the study?

Dick Dunning shared that the board does not respond to public comment but certainly information could be requested.

Hope Taylor, Peterborough, asked why the 5th and 6th grades were taken out of the elementary schools. The elementary schools would not have an issue should those grades go back to the elementary school level. Ms. Taylor further asked why Prismatic was chosen being so far away.

Holly Morales, Dublin, shared that she spoke to a Prismatic consultant and Tatia Prieto. Ms. Morales said that Ms. Prieto does not like New Hampshire and would like to see town meeting go away. She said that Ms. Prieto is supposed to be there to gather information but rather is putting her opinion out to residents before she presents a report to the board. Ms. Prieto's behavior at that meeting was disrespectful to the board, NH, and the residents. This company from North Carolina is not the group to be making decisions for us.

Dick Dunning asked that the Student and Teacher rep follow Public Comment tonight and moving forward to allow them to leave the meetings should they so choose.

Teacher Representative - Cheryl Jessie shared that she is an OT and President of the CVEA. She thanked the board for their support while moving through trying times.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) October 3, 2023

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

The Monthly Events Calendar for the remainder of October and November were reviewed without change.

b. School Board Requests

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

In addition, Kimberly reported that a pilot with Healing Paws is in place at Peterborough Elementary School. A second similar request has come forward for the high school.

c. L.I.T.S. Presentation

The L.I.T.S. group shared a presentation titled "Library Collection Development Practice".

Rachael Bowman, Charlotte Brett, Sarah Hale, Ashley Mudrick, Nicole Murray (not present), Emily Primrose, and Heather Stearns shared how the library supports and aligns with the Strategic Plan.

How does the Strategic Plan guide their practice? It further refines the role of technology to support blended learning at each level, redefines digital citizenship and culture and ensure resources across the district are available.

Policy IJL-Library Collection Development, was recently updated and it applies to library materials only. The mission statement drives the work that they do.

When thinking about collection development, assessment of needs, budget, curriculum, diversity, equity inclusion, and accessibility and reviews, requests, and recommendations are considered.

Professional reviews and book awards and "best of" lists are reviewed. The collection is audited, inventoried, and weeded. The quality of the collection is maintained.

Options for students to access resources are sought. Making large print, audio, print, etc. are considerations when building the library.

Including a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives enhances critical thinking and prepares students for the real world.

Tom Burgess expressed his interest in eBooks; will it increase in terms of the numbers of books?

Sarah Hale said that options are provided to kids and depending on the response, the collection of eBooks can be expanded. It may vary from building to building. Kids like a print book but for some, an eBook is favorable to students. Sometimes it is a preference and sometimes it is an accommodation.

Katherine Heck asked to hear more about other things outside of books that take place with students.

Charlotte Brett shared that the library is a "special" and also a residency where collaboration with teachers bring materials into classrooms. The libraries are a resource when looking for approved technology, books, eBooks, and research.

Jim Fredrickson asked about librarians in the cross hairs; and asked how they felt.

Sarah Hale said that she has been well supported in this district. They do read about librarians elsewhere who are on the frontlines. They are proud of what they do.

Liz Swan asked when it comes to the library environment, how do you think about inspiration in the actual spaces and does it matter.

Ashley Mudrick said that at the high school level, there was once furniture and shelving that was not flexible. It has been updated to allow comfortable furniture that can be moved to adapt to students. Incremental changes have made the space a place that students want to be.

Liz Swan asked how it translates to elementary and middle schools.

Heather Stearns said that she too feels very supported. She has been able to change her library environment to make it more appealing. Student input was gathered that informed some of the change.

Sarah Hale said that the space allows a calm environment for students.

Dick Dunning said that librarians are a joy in the schools and shared his appreciation.

7. Reports

a. Student Representative – Lucy Jackson

None.

b. Teacher Representative

Cheryl Jessie reported earlier under the “Public Comment” agenda item.

c. Budget & Property Committee – Jim Fredrickson

Jim Fredrickson said that much of tonight’s meeting was focused on information to bring to the November budget meeting. In addition, the Facilities Use Policy was discussed as well.

8. New Business

a. Expense and Encumbrances (Board Vote Required)

Brian Cisneros referenced the report. He reported that cash flow is good.

Jim Fredrickson moved to approve the Expense Report and encumbrances therein.

Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

b. Antrim Elementary School – Staffing Justification (Board Vote Required)

Kimberly Saunders referenced a justification to add a teacher at Antrim Elementary School. A significant uptick in enrollment in grade 3 occurred. 24 students are presently enrolled in grade 3 with one anticipated.

Katherine Heck asked for the breakdown.

Adding a teacher in Grade 3 is asked.

Jim Fredrickson asked the impact.

Kimberly Saunders said that this is an additional teacher and will come from salaries from unfilled positions at this time.

Greg Kriebel asked how many open positions we currently have.

Kimberly reported that there are seven teaching positions open.

Greg Kriebel asked if consideration has been given to combining classrooms.

Kimberly Saunders said that is not consistent with what took place at Peterborough Elementary School.

William Bryk moved to approve the staffing justification as presented. Jim Fredrickson seconded.

Greg Kriebel abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

9. Public Comment

Kimberly Marcum, Dublin, thanked the Board for all that is being done to support students and families. Bringing in Prismatic to look at the district configuration is appreciated in terms of looking at new things. She found that while visiting the stations she found that they led people to make hard decisions that did not feel very good. There were not great options to choose from. She appreciated looking at a difficult situation.

Carl Eckleson, Dublin, said that the third grade AES is an unexpected situation and might be considered for the future rather than closing schools.

Hope Taylor, asked if the taxpayers and the voters get to vote on this after the study is done. What happens to the buildings should a school be closed?

Dick Dunning said that all decisions have to be made by the voters.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Student

c. Legal

William Bryk motioned to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II at 7:48 p.m. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Janine Lesser moved to exit Non-Public Session at 8:20 p.m. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

Katherine Heck motioned to ratify a negotiated agreement with the ConVal Education Association (CVEA).

William Bryk seconded. Mike Hoyt and Dick Dunning abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

William Bryk motioned to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for personnel for five years. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

Erin Pils Martin reported attending the Delegate Assembly this past weekend. This will be added to a future agenda.

11. Adjourn

Janine Lesser motioned to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Tom Kirlin seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok