

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Selectmen's Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, October 26, 2023**

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

**Minutes**

**Present:** William Kennedy, George Willard, Carole Monroe, Jeff Brown, Mike Borden, Bob Edwards, Richard Dunning, Alan Edelkind, Katherine Heck, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Jen Kiley

**1. Call to Order**

**William Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**2. Approval of September 28, 2023 minutes**

**Mike Borden moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2023. Carole Monroe seconded. Unanimous.**

**3. Update on Reconfiguration Study**

Alan Edelkind reported that Prismatic Services has conducted staff interviews and focus groups with ConVal students, administrators, and teachers to get a better understanding.

Prismatic is currently in the data gathering phase. Community surveys and individual town meetings have taken place.

Next, an online forum and online survey will be conducted.

The diversity of opinions is amazing. We are not ready to decide on anything yet. Prismatic has found out that the small schools are not called small schools, they are called micro schools, which is a common term in the industry and is not growing at all.

On November 7th, a School Board meeting with online viewing for the project will take place.

A data meeting will be hosted on November 15th. Data to drive a recommendation will result.

Prismatic will continue to work on an analysis and move into the recommendation(s) phase.

On December 4th, the recommendation will be made public.

The recommendation(s) will go out to the towns and entire community to be shared.

On December 12th, a community forum will be held, both online and in person, at CVHS in the theater.

On December 14th, the School Board will vote on a recommendation.

All of this will be communicated out.

A warrant article will be produced if required.

Carole Monroe reported that Dublin wanted a meeting where they could be heard. They were not comfortable with the station set up of the meeting.

**4. Update and Discussion on Workforce Development**

Bill Kennedy reported often being approached by people complaining about workforce shortages.

A short video was produced by high school students and staff highlighting opportunities available with ATC programming.

Jen Kiley shared that the construction program is at Conant and Mascenic has auto trades. Career pathways were outlined.

Building Trades is now called Building Houses to include more than carpentry but also electrical and other trades needed to build a home.

Soft skills or 21st Century skills e.g. collaborative skills, showing up on time etc. are focused.

Students have the opportunity to move onto apprenticeships or other opportunities to further their education in trades.

MCC offers our students free HVAC classes.

A panel of employers will be speaking with students to talk about the importance of figuring out what you don't want to do as much as what you want to do while still in high school.

Students do not earn accreditation while in high school.

The MAXT space was used by students for welding. It has since expanded to include autobody and moved to larger space.

ConVal sends students for fundamentals in building trades to Conant.

Extended Learning Opportunities are not the same as internships.

Is there room for growth for students other than the three districts? Right now, it is just the three districts.

Do we attempt to track the students after high school? We do not currently, it would require students to submit contact information.

Carl Staley, Peterborough Planning Board, said that five by five sheds are being produced in the building program. He further spoke about the potential to expand to building homes similar to What the program once was.

## **5. Proposed FY'25 Budget**

Bob Edwards said that the towns are in budget season and he asked for feedback on the district.

Kimberly Saunders reported that administration presents the budget recommendations to the board on November 4th. The board takes the budget from there.

We are in a position where we are looking at staff shortages. We are looking at aging buildings and funding the Capital Improvement Plan. Test scores are on the rise. There has been intense work toward that. ESSER dollars are coming to an end. There are needs for specialized instruction.

Katherine Heck said that there is the potential for a teacher's contract on the warrant if ratified.

Bill Kennedy said that tax rates will soon be set.

Katherine Heck reported that everything is in the DRA portal and we are returning \$2.1M and retaining 2.5% of net assessment.

In the next budget, Katherine cautioned that the number that can be retained and given up will be lower.

We have \$2.1M in part, to return because there are positions that were not able to be filled.

## **6. Meeting Schedule: November and December**

Bill Kennedy said that the fourth Thursday in November will be Thanksgiving.

November 30<sup>th</sup> was decided as the next Selectmen's Advisory Committee meeting.

In December, the topic of discussion would be reconfiguration.

Alan Edelkind said that the project work would be complete, with a community vote in March.

Interest in SAC on December 21st?

Skipping a December meeting was also suggested. December 21st was set as a tentative date.

**7. Other**

Dick Dunning suggested that the ATC be visited if SAC has the chance.  
He said that what the kids produce is impressive.

**8. Adjourn**

**Mike Borden motioned to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Carole Monroe seconded. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok