

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 3, 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,
Michael Hoyt, Thomas Kirlin,
Janine Lesser, Erin Pils-Martin

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Brian Cisneros, B.A.
Heather McKillop, CVHS
Tim Conway, SMS
Nicole Pease, DCS
Mike Hatfield, H.R.
Ben Moenter, Spec. Education

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

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 \$3,347,632.96 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 moved to approve the Manifests as presented. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) September 19, 2023

b. Personnel

1) September 2023 Resignation

2) June 2025 Retirements

3) 2023-2024 Co-Curricular Notifications

Mike Scaramellino's name was struck from the Spring Stipend Position list.

The Consent Agenda was accepted with this change.

6. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

The Monthly Events Calendar was reviewed with no changes made.

b. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders reported that the School Board Request on NEAS&C was sent out. No outstanding requests.

c. October 1st Enrollment Update

October 1st enrollment information was referenced. AES has been trending upward.

d. Preschool Report Out

Kimberly Saunders referenced preschool information.

Janine Lesser asked if we have data.

Kimberly said that data is available. In addition, we have a Kindergarten teacher present to share experiences that they see as a result of preschool.

The impact that preschool has on children is what has been asked. Information tonight is preliminary.

Dr. Ann Forrest and Ben Moenter were present to share information.

Preschool success was defined as increased access to high quality preschool aimed at increasing kindergarten preparedness.

Indicators of Increased Access include student enrollment. Current enrollment totals 100 students with space to add students as required throughout the school year. Increasing access for students coming from lower income homes is one aim.

15% of the 100 students who attend preschool qualify for free or reduced lunch. The percentage of all students who qualify is 19%.

Another indicator is the waitlist; currently 36 students are on the waitlist.

Barriers to access include lack of transportation, limited spaces available in the home town school, and no before and/or after school programming among others.

Outreach and family engagement information was shared outlining the role of preschool social workers.

Indicators of High-Quality Preschools are impacted by the educator credentials e.g. certifications and educator level of degree.

Class size and staff/student ratio information was shared. Each class has a teacher, one full-time paraprofessional, and one part-time paraprofessional.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Competencies, strategies, and practices were discussed. SEL is embedded within every preschool classroom through daily practices, materials and procedure and play-based learning.

NH Early Learning Standards are utilized. The guidelines for development assessment were touched on.

Indicators of Kindergarten Preparedness were outlined. They include the DIAL-4 that helps determine students who are at greater risk. It measures motor skills, concepts, language, self-help, and social emotional development.

The DIAL-4 indicator for students in First Friends resulted in 59% readiness and 54% for those children that did not go to First Friends. Half of these students have some level of need.

AIMSweb Plus results were shared that reflect data for those students who did and did not attend First Friends between the years from 2020 to 2023.

Benchmark PNOA data was shared which looks at forward and backward sequences, symbolic notation and groupings and place value.

The data collected right now is for students who attended First Friends and those that did not.

Dick Dunning said that the significant numbers in First Friends is impressive.

Why don't all of the schools have preschools? When locations were decided, largest populations were considered. The preschools are open to any child in the district depending on space limitations. This is the first year having eight fully staffed preschools across the district. This has been a five-year growth process.

Jen Christensen and Bethany Towne shared qualitative data on preschool.

Jen reported she has been teaching for over 20 years.

Bethany Towne teaches for near eight years.

Jen shared that the experiences impact brain development from birth to age five. Students are coming from preschool ready to learn. Students from preschool programs have an increased stability to make decisions, share their feelings, and hold their attention to learn.

Kimberly said that preschool is a play-based program that students work through. The program was set up based on what we knew was working and what the recommendations that the field were saying.

Dick Dunning said that the data and how it was shared was a key element in this presentation.

Mike Hoyt shared how impressed he is with the preschool program.

Erin Pils- Martin asked the cost of preschool for families.

Erin further asked how many families are not being served at this time. Kimberly said that we have four on our waiting list and a waiting list for next year.

Kimberly said that the development of a full-day preschool program for all has been in the works for five years. Getting through the barriers to allow more students access to preschool programs need consideration.

Jim Fredrickson asked how students get priority. Students get priority based on needs. Open spots are left open across the district because we know of students who will have needs that will come at the age of three.

Pre-K students come at age four and preschool students come at age three.

Early intervention begins as early as six months old. Parents become aware through pediatricians and other ways. We know that they are coming. No student in the system gets bumped.

e. Summer Programming

Ann Forrest shared information on 2023 Summer Programming. Six programs were run; Title 1, Explore & Expand (2 sections), Summer Academy Boost Program, Summer Academy, and Summer Academy Credit Recovery. Enrollment information for each of the programs were shared.

7. Reports

a. Student Representative – Lucy Jackson

Kimberly Saunders read a report sent in from Lucy Jackson which outlined happenings going on at ConVal High School.

b. Policy Committee – Katherine Heck

The Policy Committee will be meeting once a month moving forward. The Fall Update is quite substantial.

c. Selectmen’s Advisory Committee – Katherine Heck/Alan Edelkind

8. Old Business

a. Policies – 2nd Read/Adoption (Board Vote Required)

- JICA: Student Dress Code

Janine Lesser moved to adopt policy JICA. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

b. Delegate Conversation and Resolutions

Erin Pils-Martin will attend the Delegate Session.

Dick Dunning shared recommendations as follows:

#8 - not to recommend. In favor of not recommending. **Unanimous.**

#9 – the recommendation is to go with the alternate proposal. **Unanimous.**

#10 - recommendation is to have a “no vote” on this resolution because it is difficult to estimate upcoming food service costs. **Unanimous.**

#11 - a yes vote on alternative language is recommended. **Unanimous.**

#12 - a yes vote on alternative language is recommended. **Unanimous.**

#13 - a motion to support is recommended. **Unanimous.**

#14 - a motion to support is recommended. **Unanimous.**

#15 - **William Bryk motioned in support of alternative language. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.**

#16 – **William Bryk motioned for a “no vote”. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.**

#17 - **William Bryk motioned to recommend alternative language. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.**

#18 - **William Bryk motioned to recommend. Mike Hoyt seconded. Unanimous.**

#19 – **William Bryk motioned to recommend promoting discussion. Tom Burgess seconded.**

Unanimous.

Dick Dunning reported a meeting scheduled tomorrow with SKIP.

William Bryk motioned to approve Dick Dunning to sign a lease with SKIP. Tom Kirlin seconded. Unanimous.

Reminder - October 12th meeting with district administrators at the Monadnock Country Club from 4 to 5:30.

9. New Business

a. Expense and Encumbrances (Board Vote Required)

Brian Cisneros referenced the Expense and Encumbrance report. The Repair & Maintenance line is over but trust funds will come back.

Jim Fredrickson motioned to approve the expense report and encumbrances therein. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

b. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

1) Dublin Consolidated School requests authorization to accept from the Dublin Community Foundation, the gift/donation of \$715.00 to purchase t-shirts for DCS students and staff.

Erin Pils-Martin moved to accept the donation as presented. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

c. Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

1) South Meadow School Food Pantry/Community Needs requests authorization to accept from the Constance Heinz, Renew Church, the gift/donation of \$500.00 for the purpose of community assistance to help district families in need.

Janine Lesser moved to accept the donation with gratitude. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

d. Equity Request for Proposal (RFP)

Kimberly Saunders reported that the draft equity audit request was referenced. The board needs to decide if it should be put out. One of the things that is important is that ESSER funds are being used.

Janine Lesser asked if Prismatic is collecting data and might be a good fit. It is possible.

Jim Fredrickson motioned to authorize to put the RFP out. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

10. Public Comment

None.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Student

c. Legal

None.

12. Adjourn

William Bryk motioned to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Mike Hoyt seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok