

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 30, 2023

SAU Office Board Room
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: William Kennedy, Bob Edwards, Carole Monroe, Jeff Brown, George Willard, Mike Borden, Diane Callahan, Dick Dunning, Alan Edelkind

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of October 26, 2023 minutes

Bob Edwards moved to accept the minutes of October 26, 2023. George Willard seconded. Unanimous.

3. Update on Reconfiguration Study

Alan Edelkind reported that on November 15th a data analysis party was held. At this meeting, Prismatic Services shared data collected over the past months and presented to the board, administration, and the public. Placemats printed with data results gathered were shared. A review of the data presented took place. The data analysis party meeting referenced, took place for a period of three hours and provided an opportunity to hear more about Prismatic's work.

A report will be shared using the data and placemat information along with input done.

A Community Forum will take place on Monday, December 11th at ConVal High School beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Lucy Hurlin Theater. There will also be an online option. The forum will be strictly on the Prismatic work on reconfiguration/consolidation and what their recommendation is. There will be time for questions and answers.

The report will be out in advance. The School Board has a draft copy of the report. Once the board discusses it, it will be released.

The report will be posted on Monday, December 4, 2023. The report is lengthy and detailed. The community will have the opportunity to read the report beginning on Monday. The Board will vote on December 7th to accept the report. The forum will provide the opportunity for input, questions, and answers.

A large online audience is anticipated. It will also be available on YouTube after the forum.

The ability to submit questions by email will be an option during the forum.

Tatia Prieto, Prismatic, will present at the forum.

Two people will be manning the computers to accept the questions.

Bill Kennedy asked what happens if the Board rejects the recommendation. Alan Edelkind said that the forum would likely be canceled.

The Warrant has to be created with a Public Hearing should any changes to the Articles of Agreement be proposed.

Dick Dunning said that this was a charge that came forward as a petitioned warrant article, which was not binding, but pursued.

The ConVal website, www.convalsd.net, has a banner at the top that directs people to the information related to all of this.

Alan Edelkind reported that a recommendation report will be forthcoming.

4. Update on court findings for school funding and future

Richard Dunning shared that the judge ruled in ConVal's favor on all elements in the suit, including legal fees. His ruling did not come out with the fixed amount sought but did indicate that the amount would be depending on factors. The ruling was favorable. The State could not answer the questions anywhere. They had no counter to it.

Diane Callahan shared concern that this has happened three times before but the Judge leaves it to the Legislature.

Dick Dunning said that the Judge ruled that this has to be done. The Supreme Court will have something to say.

Bob Edwards said that the Judge sent the message that a higher dollar figure had to be arrived at by the State.

Dick Dunning said that we all pay taxes, it is all a matter of how it is distributed. He said that the Superintendent for the ConVal School District made the difference here. The delivery was clear.

Is it retroactive? It would be for ConVal and districts that made the deadline as well. Those that joined later would not get retroactive.

5. Meeting Schedule: December

The Selectmen's Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting in December was discussed. Is a meeting necessary? Bill Kennedy said that the recommendation will be out and the report.

Meeting on December 14th for SAC was decided.

6. Other

Bob Edwards said that Katherine Heck shared that the SAC really wants to know what the towns are wanting to know.

Bill Kennedy also said that if there is something that the School Board wants towns to know it should be communicated so SAC can share.

Sharing where we are in the budget, how the budget was arrived at could be shared toward the March vote.

Diane Callahan said that she hears questions about what would be done with buildings should there be consolidation. Housing has been a concern, buildings might be considered for housing.

Dick Dunning said that the Town of Bennington and the original agreement states that the building must be used for school use. The board would be open to what the right thing to do is. A two-thirds majority vote of the entire district would be required for a change to the Articles of Agreement.

Carole Monroe spoke about capital warrant articles for a school that might be closed.

Dick Dunning said that time will be needed to plan.

The report comes out on Monday. The recommendation will follow on Thursday, December 7th. On the 11th, the Community Forum will be needed.

Carole Monroe asked if the Board has the option to consider part of the recommendation. Is it possible that the warrant article be amended at the District Meeting? Dick said that would be a question for legal. Questions took place around.

Bob Edwards asked if the Building Committee meeting minutes were out. Dick Dunning said that within the recommendation, there were CTE changes that will go out to the State for funding after January 1st. A general idea of changes at the high school that might be completed while construction crews were onsite. More to come.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Brown. Mike Borden seconded at 7:42 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok