

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

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, James Kingston,
Thomas Kirlin, Greg Kriebel,
Erin Pils-Martin

Lucy Jackson, Student Rep.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Supt.
Dr. Ann Forrest, Asst. Supt.
Brian Cisneros, B.A.
Mike Hatfield, H.R.
Mark Schaub, Tech.
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Heather McKillop, CVHS
Tim Conway, SMS
Adam Caragher, SMS
Larry Pimental, PES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Richard Dunning called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jim Fredrickson moved to enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II at 7:00 p.m.

Greg Kriebel second. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Erin Pils-Martin motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 7:31 p.m. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

Greg Kriebel moved to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session for a period of 10 years. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

Public Comment:

Dick Dunning opened public comment for a period of 30 minutes; each speaker has 2 minutes. Please state your name and town. Please conduct yourself in a respectful manner. Citizens are to discuss ideas, policy, and not make attacks.

Anyone disrupting the business of the meeting will be warned first and escorted out the second time.

The boards role is to listen and not comment and that should not be misconstrued. Hence the board will not comment on staff or student matters.

Kate Taylor, said that when she got the email that Kevin is not being renewed, her stomach turned and she felt sick. We can buy another athletic director but we cannot buy another Kevin Proctor. People make mistakes and we can all take that mistake and turn it around. This is an amazing opportunity to change your mind. Kevin has the kids backs. She asked why we would spend energy on what is good.

Steve Dreher, Peterborough, said that he has consistently voted in favor of the ConVal budget. Educators can make a difference in students' lives. He had the pleasure of teaching with Kevin Proctor and he knows what he brings to kids. He said that you are setting up whoever follows Kevin for failure because of how loved Kevin is. You have made a mistake. Souhegan is saying that maybe he'll come back there. You should reconsider this decision.

Charlie Savage, Sharon, senior student and acting body student President said that his words are of his peers as well as his own. If you believe that Mr. Proctor does not exemplify character, look at how many students are present. He said that Mr. Proctor is the sole reason for my success because he was the only one who listened so

that goals could be achieved. What Mr. Proctor did was shared. Charlie said that Mr. Proctor is an asset to the district and asked that this grave error be fixed.

Amanda Perry, Antrim, implored the board to reconsider Kevin's position. She shared what she has seen what Kevin does while contributing to the district. Let's send a positive message that we hear the community's passion for this leader and that this mistake can be reconciled.

Emily Daniels, Hancock, former student assistance counselor at ConVal and parent. She said that Kevin has played a pivotal role in the broader athletic community. This community is not just about sports, it is the fabric that threads together families across the district. Sports has been the primary way that our kids have connected with the broader community. We are proud to have Kevin Proctor tie us together. She pleaded to renew Kevin Proctor as Athletic Director.

Eliza Bohl, Frankestown, spoke on behalf of the girls' soccer team. She said that while we do not know all of the details, Kevin coordinates and manages all of the athletics and co-curricular activities. He has shown support and that the team matters. Every morning, he greets everyone at the door. Letting him go would be a mistake.

Savannah, Antrim, spoke on behalf of the girls' basketball team. She woke up to a petition. She said that if she were Kevin, she would not want to come back. Kevin has grown up with most of these students teaching them at different levels. Taking him away will ruin that bond for so many people.

Raisa West, Hancock, spoke about safe sports and NHIAA policy. She asked about the evaluation rubric to evaluate the Athletic Directors job, and the culture and community.

She shared her experiences with gymnastics. If there has been a violation, she hopes that it is communicated with the community. If not, that should be made crystal clear.

In terms of the rubric, she is confused for Kevin. Where is the public comment in the rubric?

Jacques Benniton, Antrim, gave Raisa his ten minutes of time to allow her to further speak.

Raisa said that she agrees that we all make mistakes and it seems as so there has been a miscommunication.

The devotion to Coach Proctor is no surprise to anybody that knows him. She hopes that we can do a better job.

Scott Daniels, Hancock, said that when he learned of this it took time to digest. He said that he had expressed his disappointment to Hancock Rep, Dan Harper. It seems that too many have been let go without cause. He understands that cause does not have to be shared. To many, Kevin was seemed as the perfect candidate for this position. He understands ConVal. Many athletes did not feel the support prior to Kevin's appointment to the position. He connected and supported organizations outside of the school district. He has tried to find and hire coaches who want to be long term. In his experience, his vision was similar to Mark Swasey's. Decisions like this do not garner support of other proposals. He asked that the ground swell be recognized.

Kerry Close, Peterborough, spoke about when things are not seen. Finding respect is important. She wants to make sure that this is more than what is reflective.

Mr. Boyce, Peterborough, asked reconsideration of Kevin's contract as A.D. of ConVal. Students are upset and confused. He has had the opportunity to know Kevin and his calm and collective manner while making students feel important. Helping students show their talents is a strong point for Kevin.

Ben Michaud, Sophomore student from Peterborough, said that he plays baseball and is an actor. Spring season is tough for him. It is a lot and would not be possible if it were not for Kevin Proctor. He implored the board to reinstate Kevin Proctor as athletic director. He shared an experience with Kevin while filming athletics as a freshman student. Kevin is a great man and he asked for reinstatement.

Maddy, Antrim, spoke about how Mr. Proctor has helped the community. She loves seeing him in the morning and it makes a student's day. He has made welcoming freshman a point. We hope that you take this under consideration. She said that she supports KPROC.

Michelle Dano, Antrim, said that she lives next to Kevin Proctor and has only been in the district for three years. She heard about Kevin before moving in. He was very welcoming to them new to the area. He has energy and a presence to invite everyone in to be a part of everything.

JP Bernier, Hancock, said that Kevin is ConVal. It seems that over the past while, ConVal has become a shadow of what it once was. We have lost many administrators and teachers that were important to the community. It starts with leadership at the top and he said that it is time that was examined.

Dick Dunning asked if anyone else would like to come forward. Hearing none, he moved to the board agenda.

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 \$1,530,025.49 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 read. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

4. Public Comment

The first Public Comment took place earlier on the agenda.

5. Reports

a. Student Representative – Lucy Jackson

Lucy Jackson reported that next Monday is the Solar Eclipse at 2:38 p.m. Glasses have been donated by UNH. 13 scholars were recently honored.

A boy's baseball scrimmage and girl's tennis match recently took place.

b. Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Dick Dunning reported that the voting results were discussed as well as representation on the feasibility study committee at the last meeting.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of School Board Meeting Minutes

1) March 19, 2024

b. Personnel

c. April 1st Enrollment Update

7. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Attorney, Dean Eggert Presentation – Board Responsibilities

This agenda item was moved to take place at the April 16th School Board meeting.

c. Monthly Events Calendar

Kimberly asked when first committee meetings will take place. Kimberly asked that Wednesday's be held sacred not to hold meetings.

d. School Board Requests

Kimberly Saunders reported that that are no outstanding requests.

e. Ed306

Tomorrow is the Ed306 hearing at the State. Talking points were shared that were included in the packet. The Ed306's is the backbone of education and this is an attempt to drastically lower the standards.

f. Feasibility Study – Initial meeting and letter

Kimberly Saunders shared a letter with recommended language from counsel. The board needs to identify the date for the first Feasibility Study meeting. It is not a drawn-out process, it is fast.

Jim Fredrickson said that it has to happen by May 20th.

Dick Dunning asked for a recommendation. Kimberly suggested not past the first week in May.

Dan Harper asked if all of the Selectman and all Board members are expected to participate.

Kimberly said that one board member and one Selectperson from each town is required.

April 25th at 6:00 pm was set as the date of the first meeting.

Towns will be asked to provide members by April 25th.

Alan Edelkind asked if the two studies could be combined. Kimberly said that she is seeking an answer to this question.

8. Old Business

a. CTE Job Description – 2nd Read Adoption (Board Vote Required)

Jim Kingston asked to understand more about the position.

Kimberly Saunders said that we have a generic teacher description and then more is added. It is not the same as a teacher.

William Bryk moved to adopt the job description as read. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

b. Strategic Organization Committee (SOC) Update and Discussion

Alan Edelkind said that the vote was not positive on the changes to the Articles of Agreement. We did not get the two-third's vote needed. SOC will take a back seat to the Feasibility Study because we cannot do the work of both. Alan said that the work done by SOC was fantastic. It was an interesting time. Mistakes were made but we had a lot of community input.

Jim Kingston said that it is important to recognize that this is not the first discussion on this topic. He said that he believes that there is a violation of the Right to Know law. He submitted a memorandum on the topic about the communications going on.

Jim Kingston said that he was troubled by the series of emails that went out among the School Board from March 20-27th.

Kimberly Saunders asked Jim Kingston if he has the emails.

Jim Kingston confirmed that they were attached to his memorandum.

He further said that Mr. Edelkind's emails were addressed to the entire body; It constitutes a two-way communication.

Information about conversations with other board members on this subject would constitute a quorum. The spider webbing out of the discussion were a quorum. It is unlawful communications outside of meeting.

The board should be presented with remedial training on Right to Know law and what constitutes a meeting and what does not.

Dick Dunning thanked Jim Kingston.

Kimberly Saunders said that she has not seen this yet nor is she sure that she was copied on the communication. She will make sure that counsel will present on this matter more thoroughly.

9. New Business

a. Committee Assignments

Dick Dunning said that Communication and the Strategic Organization Committee were ad-hoc.

He asked permission of the board to disband those committees.

Erin Pils-Martin moved to dissolve both committees. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

b. MS-22 Signing

Brian Cisneros passed the MS-22 around for the Board to sign.

c. Single-Tier Busing

Kimberly Saunders said that Brian Cisneros worked with our transportation provider to discuss single-tier busing. Student Transportation of America estimates that the additional expense would be \$799,510.20. They feel it would be a challenge with the need for additional drivers. Single tier would allow us to move the start time for the high school to a more reasonable time. We have had discussions about the start time and concerns of small children on the back roads in the dark.

The board asked us to bring that forward. We are getting ready to do a bus RFP for transportation. She suggests that this be added to the RFP.

Greg Kriebel said that he understands that routed software was not used to determine best routes. Was software used for this evaluation?

Kimberly Saunders said that we could contract with someone to do that work.

Greg Kriebel asked that we put that in the RFP for future use to get the best bang for our dollar. They stop at every driveway now and it is not efficient.

Kimberly Saunders said that she can make sure that this is part of the RFP. We can bring someone in to do this work with software.

Dick Dunning said that he has a problem with the price. He suggested authorizing having the Superintendent to have someone else look at this and come up with a quote.

Jim Kingston said that it is a shocking number. \$800K will soon be one million dollars. In the 24/25 school year making it part of the RFP makes sense. Making single-tier quoting so that it is an option should be part of the RFP.

Mike Hoyt said that his concern is that we are paying extra money now because the bus company cannot get enough drivers to do the routes now.

Kimberly Saunders said that we don't get charged for routes that do not run. We get charged because of the price in the contract and the cost that we pay to contract out.

Erin Pils-Martin asked if there were savings.

The current contract expires in 25/26. The numbers are a result of the numbers of students that are supposed to be transported.

d. Last Day of School

Kimberly Saunders said that she has a proposal date in mind that works with one more snow day; two will not work. Dick Dunning recommended waiting until the next board meeting.

Jim Kingston asked that the last date be stated with a contingency on additional snow days.

Mike Hoyt said that his concern is more about Friday if there is no power. He suggested waiting until the next meeting.

Erin Pils-Martin agreed to waiting as well.

Jim Kingston moved to authorize the Superintendent to set the last day of school contingent upon not having two snow days between now and Monday.

Kimberly Saunders said that on Monday, she will set the date for the last day of school.

Tom Burgess seconded. Unanimous.

e. Food Service Recommendation (Board Vote Required)

Brian Cisneros said that we bid Food Service every five years by law.

Two bids were received from Fresh Picks and the Abbey Group. The bids came back and Fresh Picks came back with a smaller subsidy and an investment in kitchen equipment and a vehicle.

Greg Kriebel moved to accept the Business Administrator's recommendation of Fresh Picks. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

f. Request to Accept Gift/Donation (Board Vote Required)

1) Greenfield Elementary School requests authorization to accept \$1,560.04 from the Greenfield Elementary School PTO for the purpose of paying half portion of the NHDI residency program.

Erin Pils-Martin moved to accept the gift as read. Mike Hoyt seconded. Unanimous.

g. Field Trip Request Approval (Board Vote Required)

1) ConVal High School, grades 11-12, students request to travel to Washington DC, from June 27 – July 1, 2024, to participate in the Educators Rising National Conference.

Erin Pils-Martin moved to approve the field trip as read. William Bryk seconded.

Tom Burgess asked about one staff member taking five students.

Kimberly said that policy requires one staff for every ten students.

Tom Burgess spoke about the potential that the staff member gets incapacitated that another be available.

It is all girls going on this trip. Tom asked that this be revisited to reconsider with Policy.

Unanimous.

h. Purchase Recommendation (Board Vote Required)

Mark Schaub, Technology Director, said that this recommendation is for 150 access points to replace a model. They were bid out through the E-Rate process. It allows us a reimbursement based on our free and reduced numbers. It is around 40-50% reimbursement.

WCA is the low vendor and is the recommendation.

Greg Kriebel moved to go with WCA as recommended, in the amount of \$45,450.00.

Erin Pils-Martin seconded.

Mark Schaub said that we would request expenditure of E-Rate funds for this purchase.

Unanimous.

Kimberly asked for authorization of use of E-Rate funds.

Greg Kriebel moved to authorize the use of E-Rate funds for this purchase. Jim Fredrickson seconded Unanimous.

10. Public Comment

John Wood, Dublin, said that the April 25th Feasibility Study Committee meeting is during the week of vacation. In addition, RSA 189:6 says that students K-8 should be transported to school.

Moving grades 5 and 6 to elementary puts more students in the radius of elementary school.

The RSA does not specify that school bus stops cannot be set up at central locations. Spending \$800K seems ludicrous to save an hour of time in the morning. He said that there has to be a better way.

Wil McPhee, Peterborough, said that he is a former player of Kevin Proctor and he hoped that the decision to non-renew can be overturned. He fosters care for young people in the district as seen by the number of young people in attendance tonight.

Nathan Cornell, Greenfield, referenced an article in the Monadnock Ledger Transcript about a longer statement being released tonight. He asked when that will be released.

Kimberly said that she emailed Jessica Timmons, from the Transcript, asking where that comment came from.

Jessica Timmons said that she spoke with John Guilfoil, publicist for the district.

Kimberly said that she will reach out to him, that is not a statement that she was aware of.

Mike Hoyt, Bennington, read a note from Amanda Hinton, high school teacher and coach. He read that she has been a math teacher and coach in multiple areas. No other athletic director has put as much time and effort as Kevin Proctor. He steps in to make sure that everything runs smoothly. He has attended numerous games and stood on the sideline in support of ConVal athletics. He attends as many senior nights as possible. He is passionate about ConVal athletics and its growth. She hopes for reconsideration of keeping Kevin Proctor on.

Doug McPhee, Peterborough, said that he has coached at the high school level. He has seen A.D.'s come and go. He has learned what to look for. Kevin is an outstanding man of character who is the kind of person that should be exposed to our children. He exemplifies a good person, coach, and leader.

Letting him go is a blow to the community.

Dick asked if anyone else would like to speak. There were none.

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

a. Negotiations

b. Personnel

c. Student

d. Legal

William Bryk moved to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3,II at 8:56 p.m. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Greg Kriebel moved to exit Non-Public Session at 9:10 p.m. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

Erin Pils-Martin moved to seal minutes for personnel for ten years and for student matters for infinity.

Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

12. Adjourn

Erin Pils-Martin motioned to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. William Bryk seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok