

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire**

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget & Property Committee

**Wednesday, July 16, 2008
SAU OFFICE
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Attendees: Craig Hicks, Gail Cromwell, Bart Goodeve, Ray Cote, Richard Bergeron, Marian Alese, Linda Potter, Jon Hall

**1. Approval of Minutes –
May 19, 2008**

Craig Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Ray Cote moved to accept the minutes of the May 19th meeting. Ray Cote second. Gail Cromwell and Bart Goodeve abstained. Gail Cromwell amended the library to read “town library”.

**2. Visitor Bleachers Proposal
3. Outdoor Lighting Proposal**

Marian said both items 2 and 3 can be discussed together. She said that the Arthur C. Daniels fund was set up for improvements to the fields at the high school. She said that \$58,000 is available at this time. We are proposing to use these funds to pay for the bleachers and a down payment on outdoor lighting. Jon Hall said that a booster organization has come forward to donate \$20,000 to put toward outdoor lighting. He said that he feels that there are other community organizations that would be interested in putting lights up. Jon expects that gate receipts for night games alone could exceed \$4,000 per year as an additional revenue source. In addition, part of the sports participation fees could offset some of the expense. Jon said that he had come once before with a proposal for a stadium field with artificial surface, additional seating, and permanent bathrooms. That project was too large. He would like to put the lights up ASAP.

Gail Cromwell asked what the electricity costs are expected to be. Jon Hall replied that the anticipation is .09 cents per kilowatt hour.

Gail asked if the extra revenue will pay for turning on these lights.

Craig said that community participation builds support in the schools.

Jon said that he has one additional bid coming. There is an on-line system that could track usage. Outside usage can be doled out consistently.

Jon said that Musco is energy efficient.

Craig said that the objective is to get lights out there.

Bart Goodeve said that it sounds like we would be lucky to cover the \$10,000 expense. It is unlikely that we would be able to cover costs that would exceed \$10,000 in energy expense.

Craig asked why we would not be able to collect 55% on the dollar in building aid. Marian explained that it had to be a certain percentage of the building value.

Gail asked where the Astroturf project went. She said that there is interest in this project. She would like to see what revenues are expected and what costs are anticipated listed on a sheet.

Dick Bergeron said that he supports this 100%. He grew up in a community where Friday night football was huge. The community needs to hear that the Board supports this project. He feels that it should be a prioritized project.

Ray said that he would like to see some creative funding.

Bart said that there will be people who see the shabby building and then these beautiful fields. We need to address this.

Marian said that we have been talking about corporate sponsorship for some time now. We need to look at the policy and get it done. It is possible.

Jon Hall said that he needs a project to tell people about. He is back proposing this project. He said that he needs the project first in order to approach people for funding.

Dick said that North Andover did it with an interest letter. Their project was essentially paid for as a result of the interest letter.

Gail asked for a draft copy of an interest letter. She said that this project should be tied into a wind turbine.

Ray asked for a sense of the committee.

Craig said that we should look at lighting that doesn't sit up high. Jon said that there are various heights. We should explore telescopic lighting.

Ray requested the zoning regulations on height for lighting.

Craig said that we have to address the zoning issue. Craig asked for a letter to be drafted.

Marian asked if the general feeling was for support and would be brought to the full board.

The information that is requested is a copy of an interest letter and a revenue and cost stream analysis.

Jon asked if he could come back after his first home game under the lights and tell the Board that he could self-support it aside from erecting the lights, would he get support.

Jon agreed to get comparable usage data from various schools.

Brenda Marschok said that as a parent of three children, outdoor lighting for football games is huge. There is nothing for teenagers to do in this area at night other than a movie or bowling. This would give kids something to do and a sense of comrodery.

Marian asked about the visitor bleachers. Craig asked the cost. It was approximately \$14,000 installed. He said that it was a no-brainer to ask for the money from the fund. Jon said that they can be moved for various events.

Marian agreed to fax the quote to the Daniels fund tomorrow.

Mr. Crowe said that years ago, outdoor lighting was totally funded and ready to go and then we were shut down. If it (corporate sponsorship) is done tastefully, it will happen.

Ray Cote asked if we support the idea. Marian said that she can have the expense information by Tuesday. Craig said that we are looking for the support.

4. HVAC Position

Marian said that we have a current vacancy that was originally a grounds position. We have done some restructuring. The strong feeling is that we need an HVAC person on site. We currently have an agreement with an outside contractor. Outside of that contract, we have spent \$30,000 for work done. The contract was for \$24,000. Craig asked what was needed. Bart asked if this would be a certification and qualification that this would be all that this person does. Marian said that they would be certified as an HVAC Technician but would do

other things. We currently have staff that is certified in areas of electrical and plumbing that perform other duties. Marian said that it is a vacant position; we would be changing the scope. Ray said that air quality and temperatures are extremely important.

Dick Bergeron asked about the ConVal High School sign.

Jon Hall said that the previous sign is said to be out of compliance.

Dick said that a message board sign is highly contested. Gail asked if the sign would have the super white, glowing light. It would not.

Bart said that we should just do it.

Dick said that we have the right to do what we want, but at what cost? Bart said that he has been down this road before.

Dick asked if we could get a sense of the Board.

\$5,000 is available to pay for this. The Town of Peterborough shut us down.

Marian said that we need to get a new price, pricing is two years old. The DOT approval has to be confirmed. Jon said that it exceeded 20 sq. ft, had changeable text, and it was not permitted in a DOT right of way.

Ray asked if there were issues with DOT with regard to a break away base. Jon Hall said that Jutras Sign will handle all of this. Jon said that he would confirm.

Craig said that we need to make the decision on the modular classrooms. We are looking at \$33,000 because one BOCA law changed. The town has the right to waive. Craig said that if there were even one safety issue, he could understand. Bart asked what the recourse was.

Marian said that she would like to bring back building usage and the policy that certain organizations don't have to pay fees. She said that we are getting taken advantage of. Craig said that we are trying to work together and there has to be cooperation. He said that we are trying to improve the recreational relationship.

Craig said that we will write a letter asking to be on the planning board. If not, we will do so by petition. We want to be zoned like SMS is.

Marian clarified bleachers are a go with Daniels money, initial approval of outside lighting with some understanding of costs, sign approved, HVAC approved.

Gail Cromwell asked what we are doing about bus routes and food prices.

Marian said that she had a conversation about lunch prices the other day. The general feeling is that we would wait to see what happened with existing prices and make a change in January. Marian said that information would be sent out in the next week or two. If we wait until January, we can wait until school starts. Dick said that the food service program is subsidized by the district. Marian said that the Food Service Program cannot support retirement and wages in their program.

Gail said that some school districts have let their food service personnel go and contracted out.

Marian said that participation is between 75-80% for those students in the district that purchase a meal. Craig asked if we couldn't raise our prices by .25 cents. Marian said that people cannot afford it now. She added that we get more money from Free and Reduced Lunch than we do if we charge for it.

Craig said that when people apply for FRL, the Federal Government pays for it, not the District. Marian said that the wage maximum for a family of four is \$15,000. People do not qualify for FRL and cannot afford to pay higher prices.

Marian said that we were going to bring some policy changes to the Board to feed these kids. Bart liked the idea of waiting until January so that a study can be done to determine what we are subsidizing and what the hit would be with a .25 cent increase.

Gail said that this is a straight forward decision.

Marian said that Food Service is never going to make money. She said that there comes a point that we need to decide if we want to break even. Bart said that not everything is a profit center.

Ray asked when the last time we raised the price was. Marian said that we raised prices .25 cents two years ago.

Marian said that if she has conclusive information before she is ready to send out the letters, she will approach the Board.

Gail asked that we not wait too late to communicate if we are going to make a change in bus routes. Let's get it out there to communicate bus changes, whatever the change might be, charging high school students etc.

Marian said that we are in the process of matching the kids in all of the buildings to bus routes for efficiency.

Craig said that the simplest thing that we have to do is tell students that they have to walk a little bit.

Marian said that the bus policy is coming to the Board on Tuesday night. Along with that is a form that is very clear about what the process is to make a bus change request. Gail asked if we were still on track to make changes. Marian confirmed that we were.

Ray asked if we still sent out notices to families informing them how to dress warmly for the bus stops. Marian said that she did not know if that was our responsibility. Linda said that we do with elementary schools.

Ray asked if all of the buildings were being monitored for consumption of energy. Marian confirmed. Ray further asked if we tracked fuel consumption on the busses. Marian said that we monitored it as well. We used less per mile with our new fleet.

Ray asked if a proposal was being brought forward about lighting. Marian confirmed. Ray asked if we were getting the delta back now. Marian confirmed that we were.

Ray Cote motioned to adjourn at 8:13 pm. Gail Cromwell second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok