

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 10, 2006

SAU OFFICE

7:00 PM

MINUTES

Attendees: Dick Dunning, Bill McKinnon, Butch Estey, Craig Hicks, Keith Burke, Marian Alese, Linda Potter, Tom Welden, Ray Cote, Sue Copley, Sue Dell, Beverly Bacon, Arthur Knight, Gib West, Jeanie West

Craig Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m

1. Approval of Minutes

September 26, 2006

Ray Cote moved to accept the minutes of the September 26, 2006 meeting. Tom Welden second. Arthur Knight abstained. All else in favor.

2. School Resource Officer Discussion

Butch Estey said that he is in favor of having a resource officer but feels that the towns should pay for it. Butch said that he is unaware of any school system that is paying for their resource officer. On the national level, we don't want to come in and overreact. It is good to have the presence in the building.

Gail Cromwell said that when talking to people in Temple about this subject, they feel the school would change in a negative way. The thought is that the kids would act up more. She said that she is aware that Peterborough might feel taken advantage of but there are bonuses to the schools being located in Peterborough. People come here and shop here and realize a benefit. Keith Burke said that Antrim advanced this idea about a year ago. The cost was going to be borne by Antrim and through grant money if it was available. He asked where the line would be drawn if similar requests were made in our other towns. He said that we would have a hard time picking up the tab.

Tom Welden said that he had some concerns. He would rather see us implement PBIS which might bring some change before implementing a resource officer. He would like to see the success of PBIS first before implementing an officer.

Ray Cote said that he too had mixed feelings. He wanted to understand what we are doing in the schools now first. A community member asked him what would need to be done to be recognized in one of the schools when walking in the halls with a hammer hanging from them. This person said they just did so and no one noticed. Ray said that when considering implementing this it depends what type of environment we want to live in. We cannot make everyone safe. Sue Copley said that they had all of the third graders go to Ruggles Mine and the students have been bringing in hammers and picks to the office for this trip. This would explain picks and hammers in PES.

Craig said that he is separating PBIS from this. He was trying to focus this resource officer for a period of two years. He wants to see what is brought to the table when dealing with drugs and other topics. He said that things happen off of school grounds when kids leave the building. He would like to reshape the climate. It is a small investment. Craig said that he has spoken with the Town Administrator who would speak with the Chief who would in turn speak with other towns. Craig said that he would like to educate about internet safety. He would like to bring about a higher awareness. Gib West said that he spoke with the Chief in Antrim. He is reviewing the current status of the application. They discussed what the goals were in having an officer in the building. Those goals need to be very specific. Their role would be specific and defined. He would like to see the officer viewed more as a "resource officer" rather than the "bad guy". Gib said that we need to be very clear on the purpose and the focus. Craig said that he agreed 100%. If the conversation went forward that this is exactly what he would like to see. Beverly Bacon said that she has a vague notion of what a resource officer does and would like to know more. Tom Welden said that he could provide more information. Butch said that once you put a cop into a building they work for their chief and also report to the principal in the building. Portsmouth had at one time a "model" resource officer who has now since retired. We might ask him to come and talk to us. Tom said that we need to know what our resources are now.

3. Future Buildings and Grounds Needs

Craig said that we know that we have to do some things in the gym for ADA compliance. Craig distributed an aerial view of the ConVal High School area (see attachment). Craig said if the NEBS building goes through the traffic may be redirected through where our jug handle currently exists. Craig said that there is 37,000 sq. ft. available in the NEBS facility site that the town is interested in for our use. This could house an automotive facility or some other program. Police, Fire and DPW are considering a move there should the purchase go through. If we had to build that building it would cost several million dollars. Craig asked if we would be interested in that idea. Butch said that he would vote in the negative. Butch said that he spoke with Joe Cuddemi last night and he said that the tax rates have come out for Bennington and they're up. Tom Welden said that we have to entertain the opportunity should it come up. If academically we want to provide some programs it might be cost effective to acquire some space rather than build. Keith Burke said that we should explore the possibilities. There may be a beneficial partnership here. Ray Cote said that it would be beneficial to explore but wouldn't want to spend too much time on it until it goes through. Gail Cromwell said that the fact that we are considering this is a good idea. Here yet is another benefit of the schools being in Peterborough.

Craig referenced page two of his handout and mentioned the site titled "Future Office SAU #1" Craig said that we need to look at our traffic patterns and we should consider providing an alternate way in and out of ConVal. He said that there is the "Patten" house that might be of use to the district. In addition, we know that we have parking issues at the high school. His thought was that we would have a student parking area that could be monitored. Electronic monitoring of the parking lot has been thought of. Craig said that 170 additional spaces could be made available by expanding the parking lot along the "buffer" zone back to the daycare. Craig said that we need to think about our traffic flow whether the NEBS building goes through or not. He said that a

connector between SMS and CVHS could be created. Gib West said that he wouldn't presume that by creating another road it would alleviate the traffic flow. Gib asked what the projected cost would be for this. He asked as a citizen that the concern is that there will always be people who want to park. Gib asked to what end do we want to put more cars on the road with maybe one or two kids in them. With the cost of fuel why would we want to do this? Craig said that there is a demand. He said that Gib makes a good point. Bill McKinnon said that students stay beyond the late bus that want to stay for sports. There are students who want to go from school to work. Yes, they drive cars that aren't "green" but there is a need. Gail said we might be able to reduce the amount of busses that we send around. Craig said that this might never happen. Gail said that the busses are driving around half empty. She said that we might want to consider charging students for riding busses. Gail suggested using the NEBS building for a gym. It would be cheaper than the alternative. Craig said that we talked about whether or not we were going to put anything in for the ADA architectural portion of the CVHS building. Craig said that the ADA compliance is required to be complete by next year. Anything additional is up to us. Marian said that she and Mike Kammer are in the process of finishing up a capital improvements budget from the minor to the major. It will provide a snapshot of what we need to focus on. The data will be available at the next Budget & Property meeting. Butch said that he thought at one time we talked about putting more money aside into an account similar to the special education fund. Why can't we use those funds on the architectural phase of CVHS? Gail said that she thought we were going to discuss the facilities needs. She asked what is different to what Marian is going to provide. Marian said that the list Gail had was a general overview. Marian would provide more detail. Craig asked if we heard about the Dublin prospect to purchase land with the Town Of Dublin. He asked how we might want to meet in the middle by picking up some land to use at a later time. Craig asked if anyone was interested in looking at this. Ray said that it is difficult to think about the need being more than what it already is in Dublin right now. He said that it didn't strike him as a marvelous opportunity. Craig said that if the opportunity to come by 20 to 30 acres existed we might want to look. Craig was not interested in the property for expansion but more for field usage. Marian said that Craig had spoken at one time about a collaborative for field usage and asked if that was still alive. Craig said that we might be able to partner with some property across the street in the NEBS area. He said that there are many opportunities and he wanted to put them out on the table. Tom Welden said that during homecoming weekend he noted that there was a lot of interest in outdoor field lighting. Marian said that Jon Hall is working on it.

4. 07-08 Budget Goals

Craig asked for thoughts. Tom Welden said that he is concerned with where we end up in March. Greenfield was out of control last year. We had a 25% increase in spending last year. The town's are similar and will see large increases. Bennington is experiencing a higher tax rate. He said that we will need to be creative. He would like to see demographics in the population, by class, by program. If there is anyway that we can consolidate, it would be beneficial to look at. He said that he hasn't heard of any drop offs in program. If we are starting off high and looking to add on he has concern with the numbers. Butch said that Peterborough just got reevaluated. The older folks are starting to panic. In addition, Peterborough is coming out with an 18 month budget.

Bill McKinnon said that the class sizes and some of the student populations of elementary schools should be looked at. Hancock has a small population as well as Temple. Temple dropped down one teacher. Greenfield and Bennington have 91 students. Dublin has 82, Antrim has 153 students. She asked if anything could be done. Keith said that things could be done but what might that be. Gail asked about the Preschool. Keith said that if we sent the kids out it would cost us more. Marian said that the preschools have kids that are not coded students that pay tuition.

Gail said that 60% of businesses give their employees benefits. Why is it that we think that we can offer a Cadillac insurance policy? Bill McKinnon said that benefits are a huge factor to bringing in good staff. Gail asked if we could get a figure on the amount of staff added with the introduction of block scheduling. Craig said that the default that we are offering too much and need change is not the route to go. Gail asked what was wrong with the education back when 20 credits existed. Those people got good educations and went on to be successful. Craig said that he didn't disagree that some changes could take place. Gail said that there is a sense that some things could be done away with. Bill McKinnon said that he didn't think so with the 20 credit argument. If we went 20 credits and offered electives, there are electives that would be undersubscribed. We could eliminate electives from there. We might not see the scale to see financial impact. Tom said that if you look at a business of our size, there is not a business out there that doesn't have a benefit package. If you looked at companies of 500 or more in New Hampshire you would find that they have fairly rich benefit packages. We are spending a lot of time looking at the benefit packages. We will continue to look at this. Gail said that there is a nationwide trend to having the consumer of medical care be more responsible for what they are doing. This would be a cheaper type of package. Tom said that you will not find health savings accounts for many people in low tax brackets because there is no benefit for them. Gail said that the other striking thing to her is that we give a superior benefit package to those in our community.

Marian said that she sees what Gail is saying but we can't clearly compare the schools with the community. We don't make a product. We deal with children. Ball Bearing and NEBS doesn't have to hire a resource officer. We have many more restrictions than the private sector. We don't compete with people in the private sector. If we want good staff and good teachers, we have to offer a good benefit package. If we don't do well as a school district, there will be no reason for people to come here. Property values will go down. Gail said that the bottom line is the same. The district is turning out an educated student. We do it at the ballot box instead of the marketplace. The outcome is the same. Keith said that Gail needs to consider that the universe that we live in is municipalities.

Butch said that he disagrees with Marian in that he feels that we compete with the private industry for employees. Marian agreed. Butch asked if with the exception of the students in the preschool that pay tuition are all of the students coded. Linda Potter and Marian said that they were. Butch said that a good argument exists. A new family with three special education students has a cost associated. Linda said that we are obligated to do "Child Find" to seek out students age three to twenty-one with special needs.

5. Update on 07-08 Budget Process

Marian said that conversations have been taking place around the budget process. We are looking at adding and taking away items.

Gail asked if we have made any progress with looking at a wood burner. Marian said that PSNH is in the process of looking at alternative energy sources. She said that she would rather be replacing roofing, and fixing windows. Gail said that we need to look at wind power. Craig said that it is a long term plan. Craig said that we need to look at what we want to address.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Marschok