

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Thursday, January 8, 2009  
SAU Office**

**7 p.m.**

**Communications Sub-Committee**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Stewart Brock, Mary Allen, Lauren Kirkpatrick, John Gryval, Beverly Bacon, Craig Hicks, Bart Goodeve, Mary Loftis

**Stewart Brock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

Stewart highlighted what he would like to accomplish with the agenda tonight.

Richard Bergeron will be asked to present his objectives to the Board on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> in non-public session. Discussion took place at length about the Board agenda for that evening and Deliberative Session the following night.

Stewart added that he would like to discuss the School Board Meeting of January 6, 2009. He cited input that he received from community members as did other Board members present. Among the opinions were that the Board had a predetermined answer and was not really open to listening to them.

**Budget Communications Plan  
Budget FAQ**

Stewart said that a Budget FAQ of critical issues was put together last year. Multi-Age, Bond, CVEA Agreement would be included. Stewart believed that this document was included as an insert in the mailer. We want consistency in the language.

**Appropriate items include:**

- Default Budget perils
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- Multi-Age or Multi-Grade
- Budget Delta – Why after several years of a level budget is it up? Teacher's contract etc. It is important to identify the impact of the teacher's contract on the budget; especially Year 1.
- SRO – Discussion took place about voting on specific items when Board members are not present.

Mary Allen expressed her opinion on the vote of the SRO in lieu of a Maintenance position. She said that Dan Harper has expressed similar thoughts.

Bart said that our budget and decision making process has been very transparent. This has been discussed before.

In addition, Multi-age decisions have been discussed in multiple meetings.

Mary Allen said that she has never been privy to a discussion on the SRO. Mary Loftis said that Dan Harper questioned the SRO in terms of the economy.

Craig Hicks said that discussion on the SRO began last spring. It did not come out of left field. Bart said that the SRO is placed in the budget as a place holder only. Discussion is still coming.

Mary Allen said that policy and the budget are under the Board. She expressed the

transparency of the Board citing the full-day Kindergarten pilot brought forward. She said that she was unaware of this proposal and felt that May Clark was unaware as well.

Mary said that she feels that our decisions are made from the top down, many during budget season. We need to make decisions differently.

Craig said that we need to point the finger to the public who show up for one meeting and voice a negative opinion. We need to do a better job getting people to meetings more often.

Stewart said that Dan Harper suggests that the meetings begin with a review of what is going to take place in a meeting and what work has taken place ahead of time.

Stewart suggested that we take the opportunities to take a *time-out* for a break during meetings.

Beverly Bacon said that often times people contact the representatives to provide their opinion.

Other considerations for FAQ include;

- Why aren't teacher salaries in the budget?
- Are we making the District greener?
- Enrollment figures?
- New Programs
- What is a default budget and what does it mean?
- Fixed vs. Discretionary costs
- Special Education

### **District Meeting Insert**

Message from the School Board is due next Tuesday. Initiatives on improving student education and Professional Learning Communities are positive topics for inclusion. We are proud of our teachers etc. This is all going to be realized as a return on our investment. Successful negotiation. Board goals should be included. John Gryval added that a statement should be included that we have been sensitive to economic times.

Stewart asked if declining enrollment should be considered.

Mary Loftis said that the Energy Subcommittee should be included.

### **Budget Road Show recommendations**

Mary Allen asked if we could accomplish budget road shows before February 4<sup>th</sup>. Bart asked if they needed to be complete by February 4<sup>th</sup>. Beverly suggested that we conduct two meetings. One in Antrim and one in Peterborough were suggested.

Mary Allen said that the School Board reps should be asked if their town wants a meeting. It was confirmed that two meetings would be held. One at the Antrim Town Hall and one in the Peterborough Town Hall. (Antrim would work best on a Monday).

### **State of the District Communications**

Stewart said that this was a communication on the review of the year from the Board.

### **Superintendent Mid-Year Assessment process**

Richard Bergeron will be asked to present his objectives to the Board on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in non-public session. Discussion took place at length about the agenda for that evening and Deliberative Session the following night.

**Stewart adjourned at 8:17 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

