

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

**SAU Office
7 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board

Joe MacGregor, Chair
Tom Welden, Andy Paul
Dan Harper, Bill McKinnon
Hope Hunt, Nan Fornal
Craig Hicks, Christy Greene
Ken Young, Gail Cromwell
Butch Estey

Administration

Keith Burke, Supt
Paul Bartolomucci, Asst
Marian Alese, Bus Adm
Sue Copley, PES
Dick Dunning, SMS
Chet Bowles, CVHS, ATC
Linda Potter, SpEd
Sue Dell, CVHS
Tim Iwanowicz, GES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Joe MacGregor called the meeting to order at 7:04, and asked Butch Estey to lead the Pledge to the flag.

2. Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. January 18, 2005

Motion to approve as presented by Andy Paul and second by Hope Hunt. Unanimous.

3. Approval of Budget and Manifest (Board Vote Required)

(Note: this item should read "Approval of Budget & Warrant)."

Keith Burke distributed a copy of the warrant, proposed budget by object, and estimated revenue sheet. Changes in revenue from previous versions include the addition of \$150,000 from the Special Ed trust, and \$50,000 in sports revenue. Noting that the gross budget figure of \$36,974,512 does not include the teacher contract that is proposed in a separate article on the warrant. Discussion. Gail Cromwell proposed that the District delete 20 aide positions from the budget, leaving the specific positions up to the Superintendent. Ms. Cromwell noted that some aide positions were added in better economic times. For discussion purposes, Craig Hicks seconded the motion. Ken Young moved that the motion by Gail Cromwell be tabled indefinitely. Motion defeated. Craig Hicks stated that while he recognizes the purpose of the motion by Ms. Cromwell, he is concerned that this is "last minute" motion, and feels that the Board should look at all aide positions as soon as possible (March). Andy Paul noted that the addition of these positions is a result of student needs in recent years. Discussion. Gail Cromwell stated that the District would not know if these positions are really needed until we delete them. Tom Welden reminded all that the District is in the process of reviewing several programs, including Special Ed, and he would rather study all staffing, instead of making sweeping cuts, especially if we have not looked at the impact staffing cuts would make within the classroom. Keith Burke urged caution until the Board has seen all the information on specific programs. Craig Hicks noted that the proposed budget does reflect some staff cuts.

Further discussion. Hope Hunt noted that there was an increase in secretarial positions over the years. Keith Burke stated that there was no increase, just a change in characterization (small school secretaries were considered aides until a few years ago). After further discussion, vote taken on the motion to cut 20 aide positions was defeated with one in favor (Gail Cromwell).

Mr. Joseph Brennan (Peterborough) noted that over the 3 years of the new CVEA agreement, staff would receive an increase equal to 8-_% . Discussion. Tom Welden stated that the 3-year average for the increase is 2.9%, similar to other businesses in the area. Hope Hunt noted that the private sector also receives raises of approximately 3% each year. Mr. Brennan wanted to be sure the press received accurate information regarding the CVEA agreement.

Andy Paul suggested that the discussion return to the budget being presented for the warrant. Questions included whether the District could be more specific on any staff cuts that are included in the proposal. Keith Burke stated that some would be taken care of through attrition, but he was not able to elaborate further at this time. Craig Hicks asked what would happen if the state did not fund the adequacy grants. Keith Burke noted that the local taxpayer would have to make up the difference. Mr. Brennan asked if a motion could be made at the deliberative session to reduce the budget (Yes).

Discussion began regarding the default budget. Joe MacGregor noted that if the District receives a budget that is significantly lower than the proposed amount, there would have to be significant program changes. Further discussion.

Motion to approve proposed gross budget amount of \$36,974,512 be placed on the warrant by Tom Welden. Second by Hope Hunt. Motion passed with one opposed (Gail Cromwell).

Motion to approve warrant as amended (Hancock Market instead of Hancock Cash Market, correct typo for Peterborough, and change default budget to \$36,442,200 to reflect increase in Aramark contract (\$10,122) by Butch Estey and second by Ken Young. Passed with one abstention (Gail Cromwell).

4. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Personnel (Board Vote Required)

1. Co-Curricular Nominations

SMS

Michelle Brezovec – Robotics - \$587.61

Michelle Brezovec – Radio Club - \$587.61

Motion to approve as presented by Dan Harper and second by Butch Estey.

Unanimous.

Public Comment

Antrim resident Priscilla Martin asked that the way GBS Principal Rick Nannicelli handled discipline issues with her son be investigated.

Sharon Dowling asked for additional information about the bullying policy. It was noted that this issue would also be on the next Board agenda for February 15.

Joe Brennan asked that sufficient handouts be available at each meeting, and that the Board provide charts or other material that would help explain the budget further. In addition, Mr. Brennan thanked all for their hard work, even though he does not agree with the outcome (of the final budget number and CVEA agreement).

Shelly Nelkins (Antrim) noted that she and Priscilla Martin met with Paul Bartolomucci earlier today. Ms. Nelkins stated that she was at this meeting as Ms. Martin's advocate. Ms. Nelkins also stated that an additional friend came along, and was not permitted to attend the meeting by Mr. Bartolomucci; therefore she feels the District should have a policy to determine how to conduct these meetings. Bill McKinnon stated that the District has received a public complaint about an administrator that should be investigated. Ken Young suggested that this matter be referred to Personnel. Discussion. Joe MacGregor asked that the Superintendent make a report at the next Board meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Policy Review

1. JICBB - Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention/Bullying

Paul Bartolomucci noted that the Board adopted this policy on December 21, and at the Board's request, the policy was submitted to District counsel for an opinion. Counsel notes that the word "person" in the policy should be changed back to "pupil", since the statute that the policy is referring to refers to students. In addition, if the Board wants to be sure others are addressed, the District should have an additional policy. Bill McKinnon noted that the original intent of the policy was to make sure staff also was trained in the recognition and prevention of bullying. Discussion. Mr. McKinnon suggested that an additional policy be discussed as soon as possible. Motion to change existing policy JICBB as suggested by counsel, and begin work on a policy for staff by Tom Welden. Second by Hope Hunt. Ken Young asked about the timeframe for appeals to (were they the same – yes). Motion approved.

6. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,lic

Not needed, however, Bill McKinnon asked if this item must be included on all agendas. Keith Burke noted that this item must be included or there can be no non-public session, should the need arise.

Gail Cromwell noted that she regretted how the last meeting with counsel was called, because she felt it was awkward to keep those that attended the Board meeting waiting. Hope Hunt asked that as much information about the meetings as possible be sent to Board members ahead of time.

February Meeting Schedule

February 2	Selectmen's' Advisory
February 7	Education Committee
February 9	Deliberative Session
February 14	Personnel Committee
February 15	School Board
February 16	Budget & Property

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 by Ken Young and seconded by Andy Paul. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

