

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Tuesday, April 3, 2007  
SAU Office  
7 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Board**

Mary Allen, Beverly Bacon,  
Stewart Brock, Ray Cote,  
Gail Cromwell, Butch Estey,  
Bart Goodeve, Dan Harper,  
Craig Hicks, Arthur Knight,  
Mary Loftis, Bill McKinnon,  
Tom Welden

Beth San Martino, CVEA

**Administration**

Keith Burke, Supt.  
Marian Alese, B.A.  
Linda Potter, SpEd.  
Niki McGettigan, TES  
Dick Dunning, SMS  
Sue Dell, CVHS  
Gib West, GBS  
Sue Copley, PES  
Anita Flanagan, HES  
Tim Iwanowicz, GES  
May Clark, DCS  
Chet Bowles, ATC CVHS

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Tom Welden called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, IIc**

Dan Harper said that in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,IIc the Board would go into non-public session for matters of personnel at 7:02 p.m.

**3. Minutes (Board Vote Required)**

**a. March 20, 2007 (Pgs. 1-5)**

**Ray Cote moved to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2007 meeting as read. Butch Estey second. Dan Harper, Bill McKinnon, Gail Cromwell, and Arthur Knight abstained. All else in favor.**

**b. March 21, 2007 (Pgs. 6-9)**

**Stewart Brock moved to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2007 meeting as read. Butch Estey second. Arthur Knight, Gail Cromwell, Ray Cote, and Dan Harper abstained. All else in favor.**

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business**

**a. Request to Accept a Gift or Donation (Board Vote Required) (Pg. 10)**

1. Antrim Elementary School has received from Target Stores, a donation of \$103.33 to support all school activities and events

Keith Burke read the above donation.

**Butch Estey moved to accept the donation as read. Mary Allen second. Unanimous.**

**b. Set Graduation Date**

Keith Burke said that the ConVal calendar reads that the Board will set the date for graduation on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> due to snow days. Keith said that in consultation with the high school Principal they propose June 16<sup>th</sup> as the graduation date. Butch Estey said that seniors have to go to school for 175 days. As of June 8<sup>th</sup> they will have 174 days. He said that they would return the next week to do nothing. Keith said that they would return to rehearse for graduation and be released until graduation. Butch said that June 18<sup>th</sup> is a makeup day for underclassmen. He asked what the major problem would be in conducting graduation on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Keith said that it couldn't be done. Butch said that they could come to school on a Saturday for graduation and count it as a school day. Normally seniors have the week off before the underclassmen.

Keith said that they cannot count graduation as a school day and said that he honestly feels that it would not be accepted. Stewart Brock asked what if someone doesn't come to graduation, would they be unable to graduate. Keith said that it would be counted the same as an absence. He did not recommend that this be done.

Butch said that he sees many days that the students aren't doing anything anyway. Keith said that it is the way that the exam schedule works. There has to be a make-up day.

Keith said that the recommendation is June 16<sup>th</sup> because it works within the state regulations and RSA's.

**Craig Hicks moved to accept the graduation date as June 16, 2007. Bart Goodeve second. Butch Estey voted in the negative. All else in favor.**

**c. Monthly Events Calendar (Pg. 11)**

Keith said that the monthly events calendar is included in tonight's packet.

**6. Reports**

**a. Principal**

Tim Iwanowicz, GES, reported that NHDI (New Hampshire Dance Institute) came for a weeklong residency. Hundreds of parents came one night last week and it was a great celebration. Eric Ingraham, children's book illustrator came and presented today.

Anita Flanagan, HES, said that a children's author came last week. The author did puppets and reading as well as a writing exercise. In addition, NHDI was also done several weeks ago.

Sue Copley said that PES has had MacDowell Colony residents visit. In addition, PES has been working in collaboration with the Peterborough Historical Society learning about the past.

**b. Teacher**

Beth San Martino said that she had nothing to report.

**c. Student**

None.

**d. Education**

Tom Welden said that everyone can attend any of the committee meetings and are not limited in terms of participation. He distributed a copy of the Committee listings. (see attachment #1)

Beverly Bacon reported that the Education Committee would meet on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**e. Budget and Property**

Craig Hicks said that they would meet next on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Welden reported that Jim McLaughlin would be at CVHS on April 11<sup>th</sup> in the gym to conduct an Internet safety night for parents.

Keith said that Jim would give ideas on how to protect children while on the Internet.

#### **f. Personnel**

Dan Harper reported that they would meet next on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Craig asked how Board members would vote in on the decisions. Keith said that they need to be notified of non-renewal and that it does not need to be voted on.

#### **g. Professional Development**

Gail Cromwell said that they would meet next week.

#### **h. Communications**

Stewart Brock proposed that they meet on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 before the next Board meeting.

### **7. Old Business**

#### **a. Committee Assignments**

Distributed earlier on the agenda under Education.

#### **b. Calendar Discussion**

Keith said that the calendar committee met today. The three districts have come to a consensus. Keith said that he has a draft tonight and asked the Board to take action next meeting.

Tom said that the vacations do not match the state calendars. The state vacations are a week before each of the vacations in February and April.

#### **c. Schedule Board Planning Meeting for April**

Tom said that there is no time in April for this to take place. He suggested that this take place as early in May as possible. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **d. ATC Space Issues**

Tom said that the question was raised regarding space if we do the "Corner of the House" program. Keith said that he asked Chet to put together some information, which Keith received today. We are looking at space in the ATC where the Alternative Program currently exists. Keith, Marian and Linda looked at space for the Alternative Program that may also have space for the "Corner of the House" program. They are awaiting cost information for the space. It would free up ATC space. Linda Potter said that they have not spoken to any of the parents of students in the Alternative program yet. Tom said that viable options exist. Butch asked how much space was being looking at. Marian said that she thought it was about 4,500 sq. ft.

Keith said that Chet has given him a proposal with everything needed to figure for in that program.

#### **e. Superintendent Search Update**

Tom said that he talked with Ken DeBenedictis of NESDEC. We have many requests for applications. There is a small glitch in the process. We are meeting tomorrow night to discuss the process that we are going to go through and not the screening process. The structure has to be worked and the questions to be asked developed. Eleven applications have been received although not all complete. Of the eleven, five are extremely strong candidates. Tom said that they will meet tomorrow night. The next meeting will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> to go through applications. Interviews will be conducted the week of the 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **f. High School Graduation Credit Timeline**

Tom said that we passed on the action to accept the 16 core credits. We have to look at alternative credits, changing the amounts, and differentiated diplomas. Tom asked if this should return to the Education Committee. Beverly agreed that they could further discuss on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Tom said that NHSBA passed out a new brochure for new and seasoned Board members. He gave one to Mary Loftis. LGC is holding a meeting in May and Tom said that all members are welcome to attend. Butch said that in the past the SAU provided the registration. Keith confirmed and said that Denise will do the registration.

Tom gave Butch the letters from various towns regarding Special Education that were signed during voting in individual towns. Mary Allen asked if the Board was sending one out. Butch said that the Chair was to compose a letter that would be signed by the Board. Mary asked Tom if he had any idea how many signatures were provided. Tom was not aware of the total count.

Tom distributed a letter (attachment #2) from the Selectman's Advisory Committee (SAC). Tom also distributed a letter, which will be provided as a response (attachment #3). Tom said that the RSA calls that the School Board fills the vacancy. As the selectman fill the vacancies on their Board, the School Board will fill the vacancies on their Board.

Gail Cromwell objected to that. She said that it says that "unless another method is provided". She said that this has never been voted on since she has been on the Board. Gail asked if anyone present tonight has voted on this issue. She said that when the School Board fills the vacancies that they do not consider what the needs are of the town. She said that the Selectman should fill School Board vacancies until the people have the opportunity to vote. Gail said that there should be a better way to fill the vacancies. The Selectman are the ones that know their towns and are capable of filling the vacancy.

Dan Harper said that he disagrees 100%. Board members need to represent the district and not the town. We know what background is needed to fill some of the needs.

Gail said that if it is for a short term then the towns should fill the vacancy. Gail said that Dan is based in Hancock and she in Temple. The townspeople should have a say. We don't often fill the slots according to what we need. It should be the burden of the Selectman to fill the vacancy.

Bill McKinnon said that he has seen Board members selected based on who will cause fewer waves. He agreed with Gail that the Selectman should make the choice.

Mary Allen said that as she reads the RSA on vacancies she disagrees. She said that it is law that the School Board fills Board vacancies. She said that she did not feel we had the power to change it here and that we would need to seek counsel.

Bart Goodeve said that he reads it to say "if there is no other method provided in the statute".

Keith said that there is nothing to preclude the Selectman to advance a candidate. The Board would be more than willing to consider a candidate that the Selectman advances.

Stewart proposed that there is not a reasonable process.

Butch said that the process that we use is the same that the Select Boards use. Butch said that we are going to select someone who fits with the Board. The person is only on to finish the remainder of that year.

Gail said that it gives the person selected "incumbent status" which gives them an advantage in the next election. Tom asked for a sense of the Board.

**Craig Hicks moved that we forward the letter as presented.**

**Dan Harper second. Gail Cromwell and Bill McKinnon were opposed.**

### **8. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)**

Marian certified that manifests 102-106 totaling \$617,662.37 and Sub Run 128 and 129 totaling

\$ 22,380.62 and Payroll 20 totaling \$ 1,495,001.93 have been reviewed by me 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 the submittal to the School Board.

**Craig Hicks moved to accept the approval of the manifests as read. Beverly Bacon second. Unanimous.**

Tom said that we have to begin negotiations soon. If Board members want to change the members who are signed up to work on this process they may do so.

**Butch Estey moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok