

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

South Meadow School
Hosting @ SAU Board Room

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD

Mary Allen, Beverly Bacon,
Stewart Brock, Gail Cromwell,
Butch Estey, John Gryval,
Dan Harper, Craig Hicks,
Lauren Kirkpatrick, Arthur Knight,
John Newman

Cheryl Orcutt, CVEA

ADMINISTRATION

Richard Bergeron, Supt.
Don Johnson, Asst. Supt.
Marian Alese, B.A.
Linda Potter, SpEd.
Tim Markley, H.R.
Susan Copley, PES
Richard Dunning, SMS
Gib West, AES/SMS
Sue Dell, CVHS
Chet Bowles, ATC

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Craig Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. March 31, 2009

Butch Estey moved to accept the minutes of the March 31, 2009. John Gryval second. The minutes were amended to include Sue Dell's name listed in attendance. On page 4, item "d", Mary Loftis voted no. Page 6, item "e" should read AED rather than AES usage. Unanimous.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Region 14 ATC Proposal for New Program

Dick Bergeron shared a new proposal for the ATC "Law, Public Safety, and Security" included in tonight's packet. Chet Bowles was present tonight to answer any questions one might have.

b. Computer Software Programming (CSP)

Dick referenced information in tonight's packet about a computer software training opportunity that is in the planning stages through the ATC.

MISSION STATEMENT

The ConVal Regional School District, in partnership with its member communities, will inspire all learners to achieve academically, contribute to the global community, and thrive as independent and productive citizens.

c. NHSDC Conference – Emily Hartnett

Dick reported that the mentor program will be presented at a national conference this summer.

Gail asked if there has been a review of any of the programs currently at the ATC to determine if any courses should be cut out. Dick said that they are not looking to cut any of the ATC courses out for the upcoming school year.

Stewart Brock asked which courses are well attended.

Chet said that Anatomy and Physiology is by far the most popular course. The others are cyclical in nature. In addition, the Engineering By Design curriculum was implemented this year for juniors and will be fully implemented next year. Grant monies have been received which will be used to rewire, refurbish and renovate the classroom space used for EBD. It will include a fiber optic run through the wing and back to the main server.

Dick said that the dream is that it will truly become an Engineering course.

John Newman asked what the budget implications are for these two new courses.

Chet said that the Law & Public Safety course will be delivered at Conant who will carry the costs. Our students can access this course through the ATC.

talented staff, already on board, can provide staffing needs for the other course.

5. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. Monthly Events Calendar

The Food Service subcommittee will meet on April 24th at 9:00 a.m. at the SAU.

Budget & Property will meet on May 4th at 7:00 at the SAU and not on May 12th.

The Policy Committee will meet on May 5th at 9:30 a.m. at the SAU

Energy will meet on May 13th at 7:00 at the SAU.

Communications will meet on May 14th at 7:00 at the SAU.

Education Committee will meet on May 18th at 7:00 at the SAU.

b. Personnel

Resignation – Co-Curricular

GBS

Scott Baldwin Floor Hockey

Nomination – Athletics

CVHS

Peter Ketchum Boys, Jr. Varsity Lacrosse \$2,105.61

Tim Markley read the resignation and nomination listed above.

John Gryval moved to accept the resignation and nomination as read. Stewart Brock second. Butch asked if the LAX coach had already started coaching. It was unknown. **Unanimous.**

6. Reports

a. Points of Pride

Dick shared Points of Pride from PES including Mary Forssell being named as the New Hampshire Office Professional of the Year. She will be honored at a reception in Nashua on May 7th. In addition, PES held Family Reading Night which was a huge success.

The Town of Bennington wrote a letter to Pierce Elementary on behalf of the citizens of Bennington expressing their praise and admiration for the school and staff for the extra efforts put forth in response to the designation as a School in Need of Improvement (SINI).

Congratulations went to SMS for their designation as a NELMS Spotlight School for another three years.

Lastly, the ATC has been identified as one of the Top 5 Performing ATC Centers based on Performance Indicator Results last year. They will be awarded \$7,795.51 in additional Perkins funding.

Mary Allen and Lauren Kirkpatrick said that they had a great time attending an NHD opportunity recently at AES. She said that they are doing a phenomenal job.

b. Teacher

Cheryl Orcutt said that middle school and high school teachers are putting up their own websites for students to join.

c. Student

Craig Hicks asked that Sue Dell to identify additional student representatives to participate in Board meetings.

d. Frankestown Meeting – Stewart Brock

Craig said that Stewart did a great job running the Frankestown meeting. It was professional and organized which made a big difference in the evening.

Stewart said that this was in response to a group of people interested in FES and the town. Ideas, concerns and action items were identified for public discussion. People wanted their say and this allowed them to get things out on the table. Challenging discussion took place. Mary Ellen Stanley and staff deserve much credit for their work that evening. Every administrator was present to support FES. Stewart said that our number one priority right now is the budget and we look forward to moving forward in the future.

7. Old Business

a. Input on Proposed Calendar

The goal with this calendar was to have as many full weeks of school as possible. There are no early release days. Craig said that we want people to have the opportunity to provide input. The Board asked that this be sent out electronically. The calendar is posted on the ConVal District website for viewing. The public are asked to provide input to their respective School Board Representatives.

Stewart asked if the other districts are progressing. Dick Bergeron said that it is the most aligned calendar we have ever had.

Arthur Knight asked if one winter vacation will be discussed. Craig confirmed.

b. Budget & Finance Update – Target Date for Renewed Budget Discussion: 4/28/09

Dick referenced a list of items developed by the Leadership Team that incorporates changes that have taken place in the last 30 days. (see attachment)

Marian Alese said that we are in the process of putting together the default budget. The teacher buyback was decided to remain in the 09/10 budget. Fuel prices were locked in. There were some unexpected items that have come up. For instance, HVAC issues over and above have been discovered at the high school. Marian cited other items on the list including five additional special education transportation requests, bandwidth issues, court ordered placements and special education needs.

Marian also shared information pending that will be known in the next 15-30 days. They include stimulus money and grants, health insurance rate benefit actuals, pending recommendations

related to food service, math pricing, high school infrastructure and release of currently encumbered funds.

As soon as items are nailed down, we will better be able to identify the definites.

Discussion took place about personnel changes and SINI School Choice Lead Teacher stipend.

Gail Cromwell asked for new Kindergarten enrollment figures as they arrive.

Butch asked about the five transportation requests; are they new? Linda confirmed that they were.

Dan Harper asked if the budget had passed, wouldn't these be present as well.

Dick said that we deal with these things all the time; we want to share with the public that this is a moving landscape. We wanted to share the volatility that occurs every year.

Craig said that every week of the year, this is what the Leadership Team works with.

Mary asked about EnVision and bandwidth. Dick said that as pilot teachers get comfortable with the electronic components, the bandwidth that we have comes to its knees. We hope that stimulus money will be directly aimed at technology infrastructure. Solutions will not impact the taxpayer.

c. Parent Involvement in Education – Policy KB

Craig asked everyone to think about the GBS presentation that took place at a prior Board meeting.

Mary Allen said that two particular policies were asked to be looked at.

KB will be left out of the discussion.

Policy AF and BAE are the policies being addressed.

Craig said that it is a good idea to have involvement; communications have been lacking.

Crista Salamy said that BAE details a citizen's involvement committee which is very different from policy KB.

Don Johnson explained that policy KB was adopted in 2002. It has been discussed at the administrator level. NH School Board Association provided a sample policy which shares the legal component tied to Title I funding. We have four schools that are Title I schools. We have a conflict where our current policy was written much broader. We will need to grapple with that as a district.

Crista said that if KB remains, clarification would be needed. She said that if KB is used, FES has a parent involvement team but there is no committee. BAE does not require administrators to participate.

Mary Allen said that policy BAE, item four, is what the group is most interested in. She said that this needs a lot of study. BAE is where we should start. A subcommittee should take a look at this.

Stewart Brock said that he does not want to worry about the policies. The community wants to provide and get input. We need to engage.

Butch Estey said that PES has a very active PTO. Some schools have more active groups than others. He asked how this is different.

Crista said that every town does not need to be involved. If six of the nine want to do this, it is over 50%, it should move forward. In addition, she disagreed that the PTO's were similar.

Lauren Kirkpatrick said that the AES PTO is mainly a fundraiser. She said that it is not a political group.

Dan Harper said that the issue is that the towns represented here have gone through some changes. It is more a change in curriculum and structure that needs to be addressed.

Mary Allen believes that this group is asking that parents in the district meet together to deal with the district on issues. She said that she would love to see this parent involvement grow.

Craig expressed concern that all towns might not be represented. He said that we did not do a very good job communicating. He thought that the Board might want to fix the communications issue first.

Discussion about communication took place.

Stewart Brock, Communication Chair, cited a mailer, meet and greets that are dismally attended, and local writings in town papers as some of the work done to date.

The next Communications Committee will meet on May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Marian Alese said that it sounds like it was decided to include community members on the communications committee. It should be communicated.

d. Articles of Agreement Subcommittee

Craig asked if it was a good idea to put together a subcommittee to look at the Articles of Agreement.

Mary Allen asked if there was a provision that detailed how often they be reviewed.

Marian said that they were to be revisited every several years but can only be changed every two years on funding formula issues.

Craig asked about the Board forming a subcommittee to look at this. Gail Cromwell opposed. All else in favor.

8. New Business

a. Set CVHS Graduation Date – Saturday, June 20, 2009

Craig Hicks moved to set CVHS Graduation date as June 20, 2009. John Gryval second. Unanimous.

b. AYP Report – Don Johnson

Don distributed a copy of the AYP. (see attached)

9. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Marian certified that manifests 101-105 totaling \$789,186.70 and Sub Run 128 & 129 totaling \$22,734.33 and Payroll 21 totaling \$826,449.35 have been reviewed by her 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 their submittal to the School Board.

John Gryval moved to accept the manifests as read. Butch Estey second. Unanimous.

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

a. Personnel

Dan Harper moved to enter non-public session at 8:45 p.m. for matters of personnel. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Butch Estey moved to seal the minutes of non-public session at 9:06 p.m. John Gryval second. Unanimous.

Butch Estey moved to approve the leave of absence requested. John Gryval second. Unanimous.

Butch Estey moved to exit non-public session at 9:06 p.m. John Gryval second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok