

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

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**Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Dublin Consolidated School
7 p.m.**

MINUTES

BOARD

Mary Allen, Beverly Bacon,
Ray Cote, Gail Cromwell,
Butch Estey, Bart Goodeve,
Dan Harper, Craig Hicks,
Lauren Kirkpatrick, Mary Loftis,
Tom Welden

Beth SanMartino, CVEA

ADMINISTRATION

Richard Bergeron, Supt.
Don Johnson, Asst. Supt.
Marian Alese, B.A.
Linda Potter, SpEd.
Tim Markley, H.R.
May Clark, DCS
Sue Copley, PES
Sue Dell, CVHS
Richard Dunning, SMS
Gib West, GBS
Jeanie West, SMS

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Tom Welden called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

May Clark, Teaching Principal at Dublin Consolidated, welcomed the School Board to DCS tonight. She said that she is happy to have everyone here tonight. She introduced staff present from DCS. May explained that the Administrative Team attended the DuFour Conference last week and she said that she came away inspired. The three big ideas about Professional Learning Communities surround the idea that all children should be learning. A plan must be in place for educating children that are not learning. Data is essential in focusing on results to assure that what is taking place is working. If it is not, it should be thrown out. The focus at DCS has been Language Arts. May said that Penny King has been instrumental in this work. May highlighted the work being done in this area. A writing prompt was requested of DCS children. This took place before some intentional teaching. The post teaching is anticipated to be complete by May 6th. Rubrics are being developed at each grade level to determine student expectations. The State Rubric is being reviewed to assure that all areas are touched on for the NECAP exam.

Susan Ellingwood, Grade K teacher, explained some of the strategies that she has been doing with students. She asked students to write information about goldfish and shared the information tonight. The students shared information about fish and decided to learn even more about fish.

One goal is for the students to build on vocabulary and use what they have learned. May said that the fifth grade did their exercise just yesterday. She distributed a copy of the fifth grade writing rubric. May said that significant improvement in the fifth grade has been seen. Approximately seventy-seven percent showed an increase in more than one category. Jenna Widner read her writing prompt about a dog. Alison Boyd read her prompt about her goat.

Tom Welden thanked May for her presentation and for the students who presented their work.

2. Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. March 29, 2008

Butch Estey moved to accept the minutes of the March 29th School Board meeting. Mary Allen second. Unanimous.

b. April 1, 2008

Butch Estey moved to accept the minutes of the March 29th School Board meeting. Mary Allen second. Unanimous.

Dan Harper moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,IIc for a matter of personnel.

Craig Hicks moved to exit non-public session seconded by Butch Estey. Unanimous.

Tom explained that three Board members are not present tonight due to other commitments.

Mary Loftis acknowledged the loss of John Pierce, former Chair of the ConVal School Board who died last week.

3. Public Comment

None.

Dick read a Congratulations to GBS for work that students have done in conjunction with Crotched Mountain Students.

Gib West said that this work is due to the work of Kathleen Bickford. It has taken a group of kids for two semesters who work with students at Crotched Mountain. It allows students to form a relationship with other types of students.

4. Consent Agenda

a. NHSBA School News Legal Lines

Dick referenced information included in tonight's packet.

b. New Meeting Schedule

Dick referenced information included in tonight's packet.

c. Retention Articles

Dick referenced information included in tonight's packet.

Gail said that she found these articles interesting. She asked if we are doing any of the work included in these articles. Dick said that he will be sharing information with Administrators on Thursday and discuss the process of retention. He said that retention is not only a recognized

negative practice, it is not favorable. Social promotion is also a negative practice. We need to develop an intervention plan that increases in intensity.

Gail asked how many students are involved. Dick said that he would like to bring information to the next Board meeting.

d. Bully/Suspension Reports

Dick Bergeron referenced information included in tonight's packet.

Dick said that there is a bullying policy in place. What we have found is that revision and reminders are needed. In terms of notification and what the consequences are, the information should be included in the handbooks. Parents sometimes use teasing and bullying similarly. Dick said that further discussion will take place at Thursday's Administrator meeting. The training that has taken place should be revisited.

Bart Goodeve asked what the standard was that gets something into this report. Dick said that it could be a verbal or physical threat that must be reported, repeated and investigated. An Administrator must be made aware of it. Bullying is a repeated practice. Bart asked if what is not making it into the report should be reported. He asked for a log of all reports and what the action was. Dick said that our policy in practice suggests that all along the Board should receive bullying reports. In the future, two numbers will be presented to the Board, those reported and those substantiated.

Butch Estey asked if SMS was suspending more kids because of stricter interpretation of behavior. Dick Dunning said that suspension is when someone is outside school and cannot receive access to the academic support. Many students receive ISS (in-school suspension) and receive academic support. There is a difference between in-school and out-of-school suspension. Dick said that some years are better than others. The larger part is because of the interpretation of suspension. Dick Bergeron said that by law, access to curriculum is not suspension.

Gib West said that notification of bullying, including an investigation and an accompanying letter to the parents and Asst. Superintendent, is the process. Gib confirmed that in-school and outside suspension are documented the same as SMS. More out-of-school takes place at GBS because of lack of space.

Gail said that she is concerned about cyber-bullying and asked if we were looking at this. Dick Bergeron said that the Technology Committee is looking more closely at the user policy. How we use the technology and if the technology is supervised or not is monitored differently. Staffing to collect and act on the data is difficult. He said that cases may be slipping under the radar screen. Dick Dunning assured that cyber-bullying is difficult in the school because the network is pretty self contained. The difficulty is the bullying taking place outside of school and the emotions that come into school. It is an issue for the police to deal with. He cannot think of one case of cyber-bullying inside the school.

Dick Bergeron said that in the high school there are opportunities for students to use the technology unsupervised. Students can post to certain sites and other students can access that information.

5. Superintendent's Report and Presentation of Business

a. School Calendar Update – Don Johnson

Don Johnson distributed two versions of the proposed calendar for 08/09. Don said that five early release days are incorporated into the calendar. Professional Development Days were discussed.

The first day of school would be August 27th. September 23rd would be the first early release day. Don reviewed the calendar. Don said that the November 4th date is National Election Day this year. Conant and Mascenic was using this day for voting in their schools. The Parent Conference Date was moved to this date so that it was a non-student day but was a teacher workshop day. Craig Hicks asked about the half days and what the purpose of them was. Don Johnson said that he wants opportunities for Professional Development K-12. Don added that major initiatives with the HILL Project will require time. We want to see time for professional learning communities to move forward with the initiatives of the district.

Craig suggested that two one-half days be combined to make one full day off. Don said that we get credit for one day of school for a half-day.

Tom Welden said that Don did a great job at running the Calendar Committee meeting. A lot of input is provided from three different school districts. Thought goes into testing dates. In the past, because days did not match up, sending students did not go to class on a particular day. It is a complicated process to put the calendar together. Tom added that teachers do not have enough staff development time. Tom said that he felt that this was well put together.

Craig said that December 22, 23, and January 2nd could be used for staff development. He said that there is a consequence to starting and stopping school.

Tom said that the suggestion to conduct ½ days on days in the middle of the week was intentional. Mary Loftis said that she was approached by a parent who works in another school district and asked if a uniform calendar could be developed. Don said that February vacation has traditionally been different due to a varied number of reasons. Don said that a majority of districts do not align in February with the state.

Beth SanMartino said that there is a window of testing in April and greater opportunity for testing is allowed with this calendar.

Ray Cote commended the work done with the month of October. He further said that we need to consider fuel consumption and maximizing student time in the schools.

Tom Welden said that he raised the question of having one vacation in March rather than in February and in April. The three groups said that they would go back to their districts and raise the question. Tom said that he also suggested a longer school year. The other districts said that they too would be talking with their groups. He said that we can work outside the box.

Mary Allen asked what is different about the snow days in this calendar as opposed to the past. Dick Bergeron said that the accommodation for inclement weather was always the rule. The practice of indicating the snow days was discontinued. Problems and conflicts arose because families began to make plans for the day after the last day of school. Don said that three days could be placed in the April vacation week if desired.

Dan Harper asked what the practice with sports in the past has been with half days. Sports and other activities continue on ½ days.

Dick Bergeron explained that districts can decide to conduct their calendar in terms of days or hours. You can go fewer days and meet longer but it must be decided in advance.

Craig Hicks said that something different should be done for the early release days in terms of transportation.

Dick said that the debate can continue or the calendar can be approved.

Sue Dell said that the date in January that was decided upon was the 26th and not the 20th. It was confirmed. Discussion took place about hours vs. days for future calendars.

Tom said that the dialogue with other districts and teachers would have to start.

Don Johnson said that the minimum hours are exceeded already in the ConVal District.

Bart Goodeve moved to accept the calendar as amended. Dan Harper second. Unanimous.

b. Personnel (Board Vote Required)

Co-Curricular

CVHS

Joyce Baldwin	Choreographer – Drama/Musical (Spring)	\$930.39
Julie Murphy	Special Olympics (Spring)	\$904.02

Tim Markley read the above nominations. No questions were asked.

GBS

Christine Dyer	Drama Director	\$930.39
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Resignations:

CVHS

Robin O’Dougherty	Special Olympics (Spring)
Lynette Fagnan	Adult Diploma Program 2008-09 School Year

Tim Markley read the above resignations. No questions were asked.

GES

Lois Wicklow	Grade 1
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Retirement 2007-08:

FES

Marguerite Bissell	Grade 1
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Tim said that Katherine Langlois submitted a resignation for the position of GBS Assistant Principal.

Butch Estey moved to accept nominations, resignations, and retirement as read. Dan Harper second. Unanimous.

Tim Markley referenced the list of non-renewals.

Butch Estey moved to accept the non-renewals as read. Beverly Bacon second. Unanimous.

Tim read the nominations of Katherine Langlois, Deb Lesure, Gib West, Jeanie West, and Anita Flanagan. Steve Bartsch will go to a twelve month position at CVHS.

c. Monthly Events Calendar (April/May)

Tom referenced the monthly calendar in tonight’s packet. The new Board meeting schedule is included as well with locations.

Mary Allen asked if subcommittees are going to meet. Craig said that Budget & Property will meet after the Architect is met with.

6. Old Business

a. Adoption of Policies (Board Vote Required)

1. AC – Non-Discrimination
2. ACE – Procedural Safeguards

3. CA – Administration Goals
4. DFA – Investment

Gail Cromwell moved to accept the policies as read. Butch Estey second. Unanimous.

7. New Business

a. First Reading Policies

1. EB – Safety Program
2. EBBB – Accident Reports
3. EEA – Student Transportation Services
4. EEAE – School Bus Safety Program
5. EEAEA – Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing

The words “the by” in the second paragraph were removed. In paragraph three, the word “preformed” was changed to read “performed”. In the sixth paragraph, the word “Center” was asked to be defined.

6. EGA – School District Internet Access for Students
7. EH – Data Management
8. EHAA – Computer Security, E-mail and Internet Communications
9. EHB – Data/Records Retention

Don said that the Policy Committee is trying to get back on track.

b. Peterborough Playground

Craig Hicks said that the PTO has done a tremendous job fundraising \$10,000 and received a \$10,000 grant from the Goyette Foundation. Craig said that discussion about ADA compliance took place with location of field space. He said that the group would like the work to take place over April vacation. Craig added that the location will be used for viewing of fields for ADA Compliance among other uses.

8. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Marian certified that the manifests 114 – 121 totaling \$550,811.52 and Sub Run 130 and 131 totaling \$20,822.05 as well as Payroll 21 & 21.1 totaling \$825,807.38 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 their submittal to the School Board.

Craig Hicks moved to accept the manifests as read. Butch Estey second. Unanimous.

Marian distributed the monthly budget reports. One is the General Fund and the other is the Grants. Marian said that the general fund expenditure report is as of April 7th. Marian read the General Notes and March Notes.

Marian noted line 28 was for bussing due to the extra route due to flooding last year. Marian said that at the moment we are looking at \$308,313.59.

Bart said that the reports were nice.

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

a. Personnel

Dan Harper moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,IIc to discuss negotiations and contract on a roll call vote at 8:55 p.m.

Craig Hicks moved to exit non-public session at 9:58 p.m. Bart Goodeve second. Unanimous.

Craig Hicks motioned to seal the minutes of both non-public sessions at 9:59 p.m. Bart Goodeve second. Unanimous.

Tom Welden said that procedurally things should come from Board members to Tom Welden and he will filter to the SAU.

In addition, Tom said that our (School Board Member) roles must be distinguished, we must respond as a School Board member or as a parent. You have every right to respond in either way but not both.

Craig Hicks moved to adjourn at 10:02. Butch Estey second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok