

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

**CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Tuesday, May 24, 2005**

**Temple Elementary School**

**7 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Board**

Joe MacGregor  
Tom Welden, Stewart Brock  
Dan Harper, Bill McKinnon  
Hope Hunt, Nan Fornal  
Christy Greene,  
Tom Lawless, Gail Cromwell  
Craig Hicks, Butch Estey

**Administration**

Keith Burke, Supt  
Paul Bartolomucci, Asst  
Marian Alese, Bus Adm  
Sue Copley, PES  
Linda Potter, SpEd  
Sue Dell, CVHS  
MaryEllen Stanley, FES  
Deb Lesure, AES  
Dick Dunning, SMS  
Niki McGettigan, TES  
Gib West, CVHS

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

Joe MacGregor called the meeting to order at 7:05, and led the Board in the Pledge to the flag.

**Temple Elementary School Presentation**

After the introduction of TES staff members, Niki McGettigan explained that the presentation for this evening was a movie that was done as a way to look at a case study of one special education student (required by the year long special education program review). The movie began with the student welcoming the Board to a day at TES, and gave some insight into what happens during the day. Great job!

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

**a. May 10, 2005**

Motion to approve as presented by Butch Estey and second by Hope Hunt. Unanimous.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

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

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

1. Greenfield Elementary School has received from Kevin Sweeney Construction a donation of sandbox sand delivered and filled in the playground sandbox valued at \$100
2. Greenfield Elementary School has received from Aubuchon Hardware of Peterborough a donation of spray paint to be used for painting the hopscotch and 4-square lines on the playground

Motion to accept with gratitude by Tom Welden and second by Stewart Brock. Unanimous.

**b. Prom Favors**

Keith Burke noted that some complaints were received from parents regarding the items used as prom favors for CVHS (glass mug and wine glass filled with fortunes and a penny). These items have been used as prom favors in the past, but in view of current times, will not be used again. Butch Estey asked about the District policy regarding “paraphernalia” and “look-a-likes”, noting that these favors may be sending a mixed message to kids. Mr. Estey feels that the use of these favors may be a violation of District policy, and notes that the District must send a strong message to kids, staff, and community (about the use of drugs and alcohol).

Gail Cromwell suggested that the Board must do something stronger than say that these items will not be used as favors in the future. Tom Welden noted that using these items as favors does send a conflicting message, and that things have changed. Butch Estey asked when the school became aware of the items to be used as favors, and why these favors were allowed when administration knew about it: Sue Dell stated that administration became aware of the mugs and glasses on the day before the prom. Ms. Dell also stated that the administration could probably have stopped it (using these particular items), but did not – in the future, these items will not be used again.

Joe MacGregor noted that the Board did not endorse these types of favors. Ken Young asked if someone were pulled over with an empty mug in the car, would they be arrested. Butch Estey said no, but giving these items as favors sends the wrong message. Bill McKinnon thought that a parent was upset that no one from administration had responded to her, and noted that when a parent makes a complaint, they should receive a response within a timely manner. Keith Burke noted that if a parent sends an email and does not receive a response, they should call administration, if the issue is time sensitive. Stewart Brock noted that complaints from parents have been heard and the Board is doing something about it. Tom Lawless noted that these favors have been the same for years (he has one from 1971), and now is the opportunity to make changes.

Gail Cromwell moved that the Board request that the students who made the choices for the favors appear at the next high school assembly and apologize. Butch Estey seconded the motion for discussion. Dan Harper did not feel it was fair to put kids in that position. Gail Cromwell asked how else would kids know this was wrong. Gib West stated that the kids have worked very hard to put on a successful event, and are aware that this was a bad choice: they do not need a public venue.

Gail Cromwell withdrew the motion.

**c. FEMA Grant**

Keith Burke reported that the District has received a grant for up to \$750 from NH Emergency Management. Money will be used to replenish the classroom kits, shades, locks, and vests. Motion to accept with gratitude, and authorize Marian Alese to sign the authorization for the grant by Craig Hicks. Duly seconded. Passed, with one abstention (Ken Young).

## 5. Reports

### a. Principal

Sue Dell stated that 450 students attended the prom. All students were very well behaved. In addition, compliments were also received about the behavior of students who attended the senior class trip in Florida last week.

Dick Dunning reported that on Saturday, SMS was part of the welcome home celebration for the 210 Engineers Corp, who recently returned from Afganistan. The Corp presented SMS with a bronze statue for students' efforts on their behalf (letters, food).

Sue Copley reported on the Children in the Arts Day that took place in downtown Peterborough this past weekend. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> year for an event that is very successful and a lot of fun. Artwork from students across the District is currently on display at the Sharon Arts Center.

Niki McGettigan reminded the Board to take a look at the bulletin board in the hall that was created by students.

MaryEllen Stanley (FES) reported that the PTO had raised enough money to finish the playground!

### b. Teacher

No report.

### c. Student

No report

### d. Education

Christy Greene reported that the committee met on May 16. Topics included an explanation of the process used to determine the NH Middle School of the year, a presentation by Emily Harnett on the testing being used by the District, and a note by Gail Cromwell regarding the number of certificates issued to students through CVHS' Applied Technology Center. (Detail minutes are available on the District's website).

Next meeting is June 6 and will include a review of the Special Ed program review process.

### e. Budget and Property

Craig Hicks reported that the committee met on May 17 to review the audit report from 2003 – 2004. Discussion included the format of the minutes and future topics for the committee. In addition, the committee reviewed the April expenditure report, noting the overdraft in the out of District tuition account, due to additional placements for students who have moved into the District since the budget was completed. Note that the District will hold a meeting in June to discuss using unanticipated revenue to reduce the deficit in the Special Ed tuition account. Detailed minutes are also available on the website.

Next meeting is June 14.

### f. Personnel

Dan Harper noted that the committee has not met, however, there are two resignations to bring forward this evening:

Bruce Dechert, Asst Principal at SMS

Beth Frost, ELP teacher at GBS

Both are moving to Arizona. Motion to accept with regret by Dan Harper and second by Ken Young. Joe MacGregor noted that these resignations would be a great loss for both schools. Unanimous.

Next meeting is June 13.

**g. Staff Development**

Ken Young asked that all staff taking classes this summer submit paperwork as soon as possible.

**h. Steering**

Has not met.

**i. Communications**

Nan Fornal reported that the committee met last night. June 11 is the deadline for articles for the Board newsletter. Keith Burke will begin writing Op Ed pieces for the papers. Stewart Brock will be the first Board member to hold community meetings in the town of Frankestown. Joe MacGregor suggested that the date for one Board meeting per quarter be set aside, so that all Board members can do the same. Nan Fornal will be compiling a list of school events so that Board members can attend as many as possible.

The committee will be reviewing the webpages and making changes to all Board pages. Next meeting is June 13, immediately following Personnel.

**6. Old Business**

Keith Burke reported that a single phone with restricted access to District exchanges would be installed at CVHS so that students can call home after hours.

**7. New Business**

Tom Lawless noted that it was nice to hear positive things happening, and wished to report that his daughter, a graduate of CVHS, had recently graduated from Wheaton, Summa Cum Laude, and wished to thank ConVal for the basics. Congratulations!

The recipients of the Isabel Miller scholarship will be announced in June.

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

**Marian Alese** certified that manifests **135-140 totaling \$558,259.32; payroll 23, totaling \$758,912.49 & Sub run 134-135 for \$23,413.60**, have been reviewed and found to be proper charges against the Contoocook Valley School District for goods or services received and have been properly processed prior to their submittal to the School Board. **Motion to approve as presented by Craig Hicks and second by Hope Hunt. Unanimous**

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

**Motion to enter Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A: 3,IIc to discuss personnel by Dan Harper, duly seconded at 8:32 p.m. Board polled – Passed.**

**Return to Public Session**

**Motion to exit Non-Public Session by Craig Hicks at 8:50 p.m. Second by Tom Welden. Passed. Motion to seal the minutes, duly seconded. Unanimous.**

**Administrator Salaries**

Motion and second to increase SAU administration salaries as follows:

Keith Burke 2.5%

Paul Bartolomucci 2.5%

Marian Alese 3%.

Unanimous.

**Respectfully Submitted,**