

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

**Tuesday, October 14, 2008
SAU Office
7 p.m.**

MINUTES

BOARD

Mary Allen, Beverly Bacon,
Stewart Brock, Ray Cote,
Butch Estey, Bart Goodeve,
Craig Hicks, Lauren Kirkpatrick,
Arthur Knight, Mary Loftis

Cheryl Orcutt, CVEA

ADMINISTRATION

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Craig Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Minutes (Board Vote Required)

a. September 30, 2008

Butch Estey moved to accept the minutes of the September 30, 2008 meeting. Arthur Knight second. Unanimous.

3. Public Comment

Megan MacInnes, CVHS student, asked the Board to settle the teacher contract immediately. Assignments and tests are not graded quickly because teachers are not bringing work home, students are falling behind. College admissions are off track because some teachers are not writing college recommendations. Teachers are not staying after school for extra help. For a SINI (School In Need Of Improvement) it is unacceptable. She urged the Board to settle the contract.

John Hanson, Peterborough resident, came to speak as well. We are in a building where people work together. Students are being hurt by the union action. Parents are afraid to speak to this board and to teachers for fear of retribution. Every point counts on GPA, it can mean the difference in academic scholarship. Students who apply early have a better chance of getting into the college of their choice. Peer tutors are being used. The NEA says that we need certified teachers. Teachers are offering to tutor on the weekends for pay. We are at a stalemate. He urged for process and technique to break the dead lock and put our students at the top of the priority list.

Bernadette Fernandes, Greenfield, stated the same.

Mary Loftis thanked all who spoke tonight. Mary said that she is one of three Board members on the negotiating team. Mary said that it may appear that the Board and CVEA are adversaries. This is not so. We are working to come to a fair agreement on contract. Negotiations are moving

forward. Last March, the fact finders report was rejected. This represented a compromise on both sides asking for a 3.75% pay raise. That was seven months ago before the dramatic plunge in the stock market and decline in economy. The Board has a financial responsibility to the community and taxpayers. Mary said that she retired after teaching in the Keene School District a year and a half ago. She said that she at one time chose to “work to contract”. It was hard on both her and her students. Alternative support will be found for those students needing it should this “work to contract” continue.

Craig said that alternative support has been discussed and will continue to be discussed later this evening.

Richard Bergeron distributed October 1st enrollment figures and historical data for previous years.

4. Consent Agenda

a. ATC – Perkins Grant

Richard Bergeron said that the ATC has received full approval for the Perkins Grant.

b. ATC Region #14 Member Meeting Letter

An invitation letter to all of the stakeholders is included in tonight’s packet to address a six item agenda. The meeting will take place on October 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the SAU.

c. Multi-Age Letter

Dick reported that we have changed our consultant for our Multi-Age study group. The new consultant has recently facilitated a supervision and evaluation course for ConVal Administrators.

d. Letter – CVHS Sign

Dick referenced a letter in tonight’s packet regarding the proposed ConVal sign.

e. HILL Workshops Agenda – October 13, 2008

A copy of the most recent workshop that all of our elementary teachers were involved in is included in tonight’s packet.

f. Cycles of Curriculum Renewal

Included in tonight’s packet, is a copy of the renewal cycle for curriculum.

5. Superintendent’s Report and Presentation of Business

a. Request to Accept Gift/Donation

Dublin Consolidated School has received from Mr. Lou King, a donation of \$500.00 for the purpose of supporting DCS students and programs.

Butch Estey moved to accept the donation from Mr. Lou King as stated above. Stewart Brock second. Butch said that every couple of months we get a donation from Lou King that comes before the Board. He would love to see that Lou gets the appreciation he deserves. **Unanimous.**

b. Field Trip Proposal

PES has requested permission for students to travel overnight to Waterville Valley this winter to participate in the Special Olympics.

Stewart Brock moved to allow PES students to travel overnight to Waterville Valley for the Special Olympics. Butch Estey second. Unanimous.

c. Monthly Events Calendar

Revised copy of the School Board meeting schedule was included in tonight's packet. Bart said that the Board meetings are returning to twice monthly rather than every other week. Education Committee will meet on November 3rd. Communications will meet on November 6th.

d. Personnel

Tim Markley referenced information in tonight's packet. He read the resignation of Ross McLean from the Girls Basketball B Team at SMS. In addition, Mr. Markley read the nomination of Ray Abbott as the coach of the Girls Basketball B Team at SMS.

Butch Estey moved to accept both the resignation and the nomination as read. Stewart Brock second. Unanimous.

In addition, Tim Markley read the following resignations and nominations.

CVHS - Resignations

Nancy Gagnon	Interact
Barbara Bonatto	Spanish Club (split position)

CVHS – Nomination Co-Curricular

Katie Gadwah	Interact	\$1,431.37
Karen Fabianski	US Robotics(split)	\$621.13
Gil Morris	US Robotics(split)	\$621.13
Nancy Gagnon	National Honor Society	\$1,431.37
Mary Goldthwaite	Tech Director Fall Play	\$1,126.26

Stewart Brock moved to accept the resignations and nominations as read above. Butch Estey second. Unanimous.

6. Reports

a. Wellness Council (Minutes Attached)

Beverly Bacon said that they met last week. Focus on the policy with regard to physical activity, parties and PTO bake sales etc. took place.

b. Education Committee (Minutes Attached)

Beverly said that they met last Tuesday. This was one of the best meetings she has ever been to. It started out as a meeting to continue the process of looking for reading support. It turned into an "a ha moment" for her.

Mary Loftis said that it was an inspiring meeting. Stewart Brock said that the Literacy Coaches were wonderful. They did a great job of articulating what they do.

Ray Cote said that it was a delight to see the consistency that is being taught.

Bart Goodeve said that he was spellbound for the entire meeting. It was coherent and fascinating. It felt like it is coming together and that it is moving together as a district.

Craig thanked the Superintendent for the work done in this area to support Literacy Coaches.

c. Teacher

Cheryl Orcutt said that the elementary teachers have resolved the situation with the November 4th conference situation.

7. Old Business

a. Greenfield School Board Representative Opening

Craig will look into further.

b. Public Hearing Input – CVHS Sign

Craig referenced a letter from the Town Of Peterborough providing feedback from last night's meeting. He said that he is unsure of what action we want to take.

Bart asked what the logical next step is. Craig said that it would be to see what the State of NH says.

Dick Bergeron said that design qualities will be addressed.

Craig said that more to come at the next meeting.

Bev said that Peterborough/Sharon held their "Meet and Greet" last week. Nine people attended. Big6, HILL, and the high school were discussed. She asked if List Serve could be used for the publicity of these types of meetings.

Lauren Kirkpatrick said that she and Mary Allen held their Meet and Greet last week and nobody showed up.

Stewart Brock suggested that the creation of an agenda helped bring people out in Frankestown. He said that he doesn't know how else to get people there. He said that the possibility of holding them only once a year is a suggestion.

Mary Allen said that having a topic or agenda could be helpful. There are critical times of year that people want to talk to their School Board representative. During budget season and voting would be key times to meet.

Arthur Knight said that the best attended "Meet and Greet" was during controversy. He said that the best time to meet is when there is a focus.

8. New Business

a. Draft Budget Prep Calendar (Handout and Discussion)

Marian referenced the Draft Budget Prep Calendar. She noted November 6th on the calendar as an all day meeting scheduled in. January 20th is the last date for budget/bond hearing.

Marian will change the December 3rd date.

Food Service document was distributed in advance of next weeks Budget & Property meeting for review.

Craig said that the Architect will provide a clear idea of our choices for the October 28th meeting about the a la carte items.

9. Approval of Manifests (Board Vote Required)

Marian Alese certified that manifests 32769, 32 – 37 totaling \$ 1,426,898.08, Payroll 8 totaling \$818,070.83 and Sub Run 106 and 107 totaling \$14,109.86 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.

Ray Cote moved to accept the manifests as read. Arthur Knight second. Unanimous.

10. Input and Corrections - Electronic Actions/Requests

Craig said that you cannot tell someone that you can allow specific text on a sign. If you allow text, you allow all text.

Mary Allen said that she is not against the proposed sign. She said that signage is important. We need to work and come to a compromise on this. It needs to work all around. She is hopeful that we come up with something that will work.

Craig suggested that the letter from Sy Little is inaccurate. They could have the right size and include more than time and temperature in text. We will discuss alternatives.

Bart said that much of the discussion is aesthetics. Some felt that the sign is ugly and should be more "Peterborough". Past a certain point, it will be a sign that will say who ConVal is and speak to it in a fashion. If the objection is lit letters, he was unsure what the compromise would be.

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

a. Negotiations

Butch Estey moved in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,IIc at 7:49 p.m. to enter into non-public session for purposes of negotiation. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

Butch Estey motioned to exit non-public session at 8:58 p.m. Arthur Knight second.

Butch Estey moved to seal the minutes of tonight's non-public session. Beverly Bacon second. Unanimous.

Craig Hicks said that we would like to direct the Superintendent to create an alternative plan to meet the academic needs of students as soon as possible and to expend funds as appropriate.

Stewart Brock amended this to include the words "because of the job action"

Butch Estey second the amendment.

Unanimous.

Ray Cote moved to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:01 p.m. Butch Estey second.

Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok