

1  
2  
3  
4 **CONWAY SCHOOL BOARD**  
5 **MEETING MINUTES**  
6 **March 22, 2010**  
7

8 A meeting of the Conway School Board was held on Monday, March 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the  
9 Loynd Auditorium at the Kennett High School.  
10

11 **Members present:** Chairperson Sheryl Kovalik, Assistant Chair Kelley Murphy, Dick Klement, Syndi  
12 White, Janine McLauchlan, Rick Breton and Randy Davison were present. Carl Nelson and Assistant  
13 Superintendent Bob Gadomski were also present.  
14

15 **Signing of Manifests (6:20 p.m.)**  
16

17 **1. Call to Order (6:30 p.m.)**  
18

19 **2. Salute to the Flag**  
20

21 Neal Moylan stated one of the greatest things he has to do is work each and every day in this  
22 building. Kennett High School won championship status in Girl's Basketball, Boy's Ice Hockey, and  
23 Alpine Skiing. Each coach stood and introduced the team members, providing praise. The athletes  
24 provided thanks to the administration and coaches. A standing ovation was given to all.  
25

26 **3. Approve Minutes (3-8-10)**  
27

28 **Motion:** by Kelley, seconded by Janine, to review, discuss and approve. **7-0-0.**  
29

30 **4. Personnel**  
31

32 **A. Consider Regular Personnel Changes**  
33

34 **1. Approval of Request by Amy Mask for Child Care Leave**

35 **Motion:** by Janine, seconded by Kelley, to review, discuss and approve.  
36 **7-0-0.**

37 **2. Election of CTSO Advisors for 2009-10**

38 **Motion:** by Janine, seconded by Rick, to review, discuss and approve.  
39 **7-0-0.**  
40

41 **5. Presentation of School Programs/FYI ITEMS**  
42

43 **A. KHS Student Representative (first meeting of the month)**

44 **B. Principals' and Directors' Reports (first meeting of the month)**  
45

46 **6. Public Comments**  
47

48 **7. Old Business**  
49

50 **A. Wetland Application for the Swift River Stabilization Project (maximum 10 minute**  
51 **presentation by Sean Sweeney of Headwaters Hydrology)**  
52

53 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Kelley, to take this item off the table.  
54

55 Sean Sweeney, a Geo-Fluvial Morphologist with Headwaters Hydrology, gave a  
56 presentation of the proposed project (installing two large culverts on either side of the  
57 existing bridge). Sean reviewed the photo of the proposed culverts. They would be 5 or

58 6 feet above the riverbed itself and would only carry water during a flood. The State of  
59 New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services is looking for permission from  
60 the School Board to issue a permit to construct a culvert. The school district property  
61 borders the railroad's property. He reviewed a larger photo showing the river in relation  
62 to athletic fields and schools. These culverts are proposed in a location as close as  
63 they can be to the current bridge and as far away as they can be from the athletic fields.  
64 The culverts will not discharge water directly onto the athletic fields. The water will be  
65 discharged into the old river channel. He reviewed 1954 aerial photographs and how  
66 the river has changed and where it used to be. That channel is still there (unvegetated,  
67 sand and gravel). The culvert would be up gradient from this old channel. Janine  
68 asked what the primary reason is for this proposal. Sean reported it is to protect the  
69 Conway Scenic Railroad bridge. In 2001 and 2002 the railroad was granted a Wetlands  
70 Bureau permit to rip rap the railroad embankment. As part of that permit, there was a  
71 condition that stated that no more permits would be allowed for rip rap until they come  
72 up with a long term solution. Sean stated that essentially this project is to save the  
73 railroad, with other environmental and public safety benefits, too. Janine stated, for  
74 clarification, that this proposal is to protect a private business. Bob Parrish (audience  
75 member) spoke. He is on an advisory committee to protect the river so the erosion  
76 problem is solved, the riverbank corridor will be reconstructed, and putting the culverts  
77 in will reduce the flooding upstream of the bridge. The state has a vested interest and  
78 has funded 60% of the engineering study and the railroad has come up with the 40% for  
79 close to three million dollars. It is just not a financial interested to the railroad, there are  
80 many more interested parties. Dick asked if the culvert on the other side has been  
81 agreed to by property owner. Sean said no. Dick asked if that person agrees to the  
82 culvert, would this satisfy part of the requirement? Sean stated no, it is both or nothing.  
83 Randy stated he is not an expert on this and has to put some weight into the letter from  
84 the Conway Conservation Committee and stated he cannot support this proposal. Sean  
85 stated that Mr. Wether's recommendations (rip-rapping riverbanks) would not be  
86 permitted by the state. Mr. Parrish restated that the state will not allow rip rapping to  
87 occur on this site again. Randy's concern with this letter is it refers to the two culvert  
88 installation and the volume of water, where that volume is going to be distributed, and  
89 the continued deterioration of the actual river bed itself. Andy Griegel, Maintenance  
90 Department at Kennett, asked if this is the preferred method by the State of New  
91 Hampshire as Headwaters Hydrology said it is, will the State of New Hampshire be  
92 willing to assume all liability on our athletic fields if this culvert system causes damage  
93 to our fields. Mr. Parrish stated that is not a question he can answer. Carl asked if  
94 there is a way someone could get the answer. Mr. Parrish stated he could not answer  
95 that question but he doesn't think they would say yes. He could ask the river  
96 coordinator his opinion but he is serving in Iraq. Sean explained the Army Corps of  
97 Engineers' letter regarding the impact of flooding and what FEMA's opinion of the project  
98 would be. They have requested a conditional Letter of Map Revision (LOMR). He  
99 reviewed the Flood Insurance Rate Map and the floodway. This is the area that is off  
100 limits for any land development or land use; you cannot add fill. On the school district  
101 property, the floodway comes up to the back of the elementary school parking lot.  
102 FEMA has accepted the analysis and if the project is constructed, FEMA will revise the  
103 Flood Insurance Rate Map and the majority of fields would be taken out of floodway and  
104 could be elevated with fill. As a result of proposed project, the base flood elevation of  
105 Swift River will decrease compared with existing flood elevation. Terry Miller (audience  
106 member) of the Swift River Advisory Committee and a District Ranger was present and  
107 stated that this part of the river is one place in its entire length where there is a more  
108 serious issue than any other part. He was speaking on behalf of the national forest. He  
109 agreed with Bob Parrish that the State will not give the district any kind of guarantee but  
110 he believes that what is proposed will correct any possible problems in the case of a 50,  
111 75 or 100 year flood event. Andy Griegel stated if you watch this river historically for  
112 many, many, years, it is not the fault of the trestle in what it is creating for a problem  
113 here. The problem lies in the fact that the Swift River cannot overcome what the Saco  
114 River is generating for physical water pressure in holding it back. If you have ever seen  
115 this flood occur, the fields that will flood first will be the athletic fields followed by the  
116 fields upstream of the bridge. If Sean were to realign the river perpendicular to the

117 bridge and create a rip rap environment, because back in the early 70s when they had  
118 the erosion problem and they got permission to rip rap, they didn't rip rap it in a  
119 perpendicular manner because DES wasn't going to allow them to do that, and they  
120 were to eliminate the old pilings that were still in the river from the old trestle, this  
121 problem probably wouldn't be there. But, it's all or nothing. He is afraid to say that if  
122 you put these tunnels in, there will be no place for water to go because the Saco River  
123 is going to still, because it always has, overwhelm the Swift River and these athletic  
124 fields are going to suffer the effects that no one is going to want to pay for. He thinks  
125 the district is going to be left on the hook for millions of dollars to recreate something  
126 that this project has destroyed and no one is willing to take ownership of.

127  
128 **Motion:** by Dick, seconded by Janine, to vote on giving permission for the State of  
129 New Hampshire, DES – Wetlands Bureau, to issue a permit for this  
130 project.

131  
132 Syndi stated she doesn't feel this is in her area of expertise and she defers to the  
133 Conway Conservation Commission; if they are not behind it, she is not behind it. Kelley  
134 stated it is mind boggling and beyond her understanding and will be abstaining. Randy  
135 stated he puts his trust in the Conservation Commission and what Andy said, and his  
136 vote will be no. Russ with the Conway Scenic Railroad stated that it is difficult for him to  
137 approach this as the Owner of Conway Scenic Railroad. He believes his comments are  
138 unbiased. In the year 2000 they did the rip rap job that cost them about \$100,000. As  
139 Sean has explained, they were told by the State of New Hampshire that they would  
140 never be able to do that again until they had gone through this study process. The  
141 study process that Sean is presenting has cost \$80,000 to get there. Understanding  
142 that he is a tax payer, he has a vested interest in the bridge, even in the athletic fields,  
143 all of that, understand that a "no" vote by the Board basically says we are not going to  
144 let you do this project whether it has value, whether it works or not. And he is now in  
145 the position of saying what if we get that flood? What if we get the flood and the river is  
146 breached either at the bridge or behind the abutments, or someplace else? He doesn't  
147 have the ability to go and look at the river and say I need to rip rap this section to  
148 prevent a future catastrophe. He is dependent upon this particular study and this  
149 solution to move forward. He was not asking the board to vote yes or no. He just  
150 wanted to explain the situation he is in. Sheryl stated, as much as she respects Russ  
151 and appreciates the work that Sean has done, she will be voting against this because  
152 she has no confidence at this point that she can support it and protect the liability issues  
153 that face the district. Sheryl called the vote.

154  
155 **0 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstained (Kelley).**

## 156 157 **B. Correspondence from Physical Education Department**

158  
159 This correspondence was in response to the position the Board took on school credits  
160 through P.E., etc. This was tabled from the last meeting because Neal was not present.

161  
162 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Rick, to take this item off the table.

163  
164 Neal stated he was charged with going to the P.E. folks and providing feedback to the  
165 Board. The P.E. staff is strongly in support of maintaining the policy as it had been  
166 which is that the student athlete can use one of their two P.E. credits that they have  
167 earned through athletics but they would still be required to take an actual P.E. course.  
168 They also pointed out that there were a number of other lessons that can be learned in  
169 their P.E. class, above and beyond the actual sport they are playing. Randy stated that  
170 members of the community and athletes have mentioned to him that they thank the  
171 Board by putting into place the additional avenue to receive P.E. credit. Athletes have  
172 mentioned that receiving credit for participating on sports teams can be looked at as an  
173 excellent expansion of what we already offer. It should be looked at as a positive due to  
174 the more rigorous training and commitment that it takes to participate in a high school  
175 sport. Team members learn an in-depth knowledge of a sport in addition to learning

176 about team work and setting individual goals. The exertion and physical ability to  
177 participate in high school sports is difficult to compare to a general P.E. class. Students  
178 build life-long commitments to a sport as compared to a general P.E. class. If we can  
179 reduce staff count by utilizing such things as this presented, we should be doing that as  
180 a Board. Sheryl reminded all that there is no motion on the floor, this was feedback  
181 requested from the P.E. staff. She also stated that she received feedback from a  
182 graduate that it may be good to not have athletes in P.E. as it can be intimidating to the  
183 other students. She thinks we need to watch the affect. Dick recommended that we  
184 thank the P.E. staff for their input.

## 185 **8. Instructional Issues**

### 186 **A. Consider Approval of 2010-11 School Calendar**

187  
188  
189 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Sheryl, to review, discuss and vote on item.

190  
191  
192 Dick stated he will be voting against this because they have increased the number of  
193 early release days and he thinks we are short changing our students by continuing to  
194 have early release days and counting them as a full day of education. Sheryl stated this  
195 was a comment that came up during the SAU Board discussion and at the SAU voted  
196 that during the next calendar creation there would be direction given to the calendar  
197 committee that they minimize the number of early release days and they maximize the  
198 number of full day instruction opportunities for students. Syndi supports staff  
199 developing and we need to find a way to provide staff development to move forward and  
200 strengthen our team. Dick stated he does, too, but the current contract calls for hours  
201 every month after school that the teachers are obliged to be there for and this could well  
202 fill that requirement. Sheryl stated that they gave direction at SAU board level that they  
203 would set those things in motion prior to the next convening of the scheduling  
204 committee as a board at the SAU level with all the boards participating and contributing  
205 guidelines.

206  
207 **5 in favor, 2 opposed (Dick, Janine), 0 abstained.**

### 208 **B. Consider First Reading of Policy IGDJ – KHS Student Activities Code**

209  
210  
211 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Kelley, to review, discuss and vote on item.

212  
213 Randy noted a typo on page four: “on any district wide” should be “in any district wide”.  
214 His only concern on the policy is that the idea of participation has not been resolved.  
215 He firmly believes that participation in extra-curricular activities should be exactly what it  
216 is, an additional reward that you offer in a system. He does not agree with the Co-  
217 Curricular Committee’s definition of participation. His believes the definition of  
218 participation is when a person is not eligible, they don’t participate. Sheryl stated that  
219 they beat that horse to death in Policy. After a presentation by Neal and Bob  
220 Gadomski, she will be voting for the policy. Randy asked if a student is not eligible, are  
221 they able to participate in practices and not compete? He believes as a Board Member  
222 that they should be home studying and not practicing or competing, getting their studies  
223 in order. Sheryl stated that there was conversation at the Board level that we would be  
224 instructing all of our teachers and coaches that they would have the opportunity to  
225 suggest to the students a different course of action than participation but we didn’t want  
226 to go the punitive route and remove the one thing that kept the kid coming to school. It  
227 does not preclude coaching them to spend more time with their studies. Neal stated  
228 this policy is looking at it as a policy of inclusion not exclusion. Randy thinks the  
229 purpose of the school is to educate an individual and if a student is not making the  
230 grade in a class and is not eligible for a sport, why would a system allow a student to  
231 participate when they really should be getting their studies in order to meet their  
232 educational needs. Dick, asked for clarification, participation is defined differently for an  
233 academic failure as opposed to a suspension from school issue. They did look at it  
234 from two different aspects.

235 **6 in favor, 1 opposed (Randy), 0 abstentions.**

236  
237  
238 Kelley asked if this was going into effect for fall sports. Sheryl clarified that this was a  
239 recommendation to accept this upon a first reading and skip the second reading. Due  
240 to confusion, this will be presented for a second reading at the next board meeting, but  
241 yes, it would go into effect for fall sports.

242  
243 **C. Consider Approval of Overnight Field Trip – Key Club**

244  
245 **Motion:** by Kelley, seconded by Randy, to review, discuss and vote on item.

246  
247 Rick noted this is for 50 to 60 students and encouraged administration to look at staffing  
248 and make sure there is enough supervision (by gender). **7-0-0**

249  
250 **9. Business Affairs – None.**

251  
252 **10. Administrators' Reports**

253  
254 April 13th is the vote. The next SAU Board Meeting is April 29<sup>th</sup> in Albany.

255  
256 **A. Consider Moving April 26<sup>th</sup> Reorganization Meeting to May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

257  
258 Duly noted.

259  
260 **11. Board Members' Issues -- Board Discussion**

261  
262 **A. Committee Reports - None.**

263  
264 **Motion:** by Dick, seconded by Janine, to defer both committees regarding the K-8  
265 adjustment until the economic situation gets better. As Chairperson,  
266 Syndi concurs as chair person. **7-0-0.**

267  
268 **Motion:** by Dick, seconded by Janine, for the board to assign a subcommittee to  
269 obtain community input to determine the community's feeling on closing  
270 one of the elementary schools.

271  
272 Dick stated we should not name the elementary school that should be closed. Syndi  
273 suggested an on-line survey. We will need facts first. Kelley stated before seeking  
274 public input, delay by a couple of weeks to allow for education to the public. **7-0-0.**

275  
276 **Motion:** by Randy, seconded by Rick, that any transfer of funds of \$5,000 or more  
277 come before the Board for approval.

278  
279 Carl warned of micromanaging funds. He thinks the principals need to have the latitude  
280 to deal with these types of transfers. Randy stated when looking at funding, we  
281 budgeted these figures for a specific area. If they don't need the money in these areas  
282 they were budgeted for, perhaps it is not needed at all. Syndi thinks if they are shifting  
283 money within their budget she is fine with this, but she would like an explanation and  
284 have it done when the principals are here so they can explain it.

285  
286 Sheryl called the vote. **5 in favor, 2 opposed (Kelley, Rick), abstained 0.**

287  
288 **12. Public Comments (time permitting) –** Doug Swett stated that the Board needs to rearrange  
289 how they are doing things. People in this town need some relief. Maintenance is the last thing  
290 to take things out of. Jim Lefebvre spoke to what Bill Masters was talking about in the previous  
291 meeting is what he believes will become more and more essential. We need to look at  
292 everything being done and do it more efficiently. Sheryl stated we have always taken that  
293 approach and still look at how to do what is best for the students. Dick noted on the budget

294 function summary sheet, transportation project succeed. Shouldn't this be charged to project  
295 succeed separately. Carl will look into this and get back to Dick.

296  
297 **13. Adjournment**

298 **Motion:** by Dick, seconded by Rick, to adjourn. All in favor.

300  
301 **Meeting adjourned at 7:48.**

302  
303 Respectfully Submitted,

304  
305  
306  
307 Xann Teryek  
308 Recording Secretary

309  
310  
311  
312