

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Tina Peabody; Board Members Larry Kaplan, Lynn Terres, Robert Adams, Linda Gaitskill, Jason Cartwright; Superintendent Paul MacMillan; Business Manager Sandra Stone.

Chairman Peabody called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY LARRY KAPLAN TO APPROVE THE MINTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2009 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Macmillan distributed copies of his entry plan for Board information and review. This plan is similar to that submitted last year by Interim Superintendent Robert Patterson. Superintendent MacMillan worked with Mr. Patterson on several occasions prior to assuming his new role in July. Since that time he has added to and fine tuned his entry plan.

Superintendent MacMillan advised that he has met with all police chiefs in the Districts. Each of them spoke very highly of the schools and school administration and is eager to work with us to insure the safety of our students.

Superintendent Macmillan further advised the Board that he had the opportunity to meet with the new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Virginia Barry while attending the School Internship Program developed with Garnett Hill and New England Electric Wire Company. Dr. Barry felt that there may be grant monies available for this type of program. Contact has been made between Paul Leather of the NH DOE and Robert Butson, Facilitator of the Internship Program to further discuss possible funding.

Superintendent MacMillan has also met with SAU 35's Special Education Resource Consultant Pat Eddy and Grant Writer Paul Williams.

SAU 35 will be holding an Administrative Retreat on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at the Highland Center in Bretton Woods from 8:00 to approximately 3:00 PM. Superintendent MacMillan briefed the Board on the focus of the retreat. Among the topics to be discussed will be the establishment of curriculum committees and grade level meetings; consistent anti-bullying rules and procedures; special education and grant information; accountability of hiring; and communication. Superintendent MacMillan noted that he has developed a format to be utilized in reference checks increasing the accountability in this process. He will also be looking into the implementation of coaching contracts and being sure that all have appropriate criminal record checks.

Superintendent MacMillan will be meeting with our transportation providers in the near future. On Thursday, he will be evaluating a bus stop in conjunction with First Student at the request of a Bethlehem parent who feels their home is beyond the one-mile from the bus stop limit.

Superintendent MacMillan requested information on how his performance will be evaluated. He is seeking Board input on the criteria involved in order to develop his own goals and expectations. Chairman Peabody advised that a copy of the current evaluation form will be provided to the superintendent for his review and the process will be discussed at the next meeting.

The SAU has received notification from the NH DOE that our Professional Development Plan has reviewed been reviewed and approved.

The majority of positions have been filled throughout the SAU for the upcoming year. Bethlehem and Landaff are still looking for pre-school coordinators. Profile is completing their school nurse search.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed Executive Board meeting calendars for the 2009-2010 school year. Meeting dates and times will remain the same as they are currently, the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM at the SAU office.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed correspondence addressed to each Board from the New Hampshire Municipal Association pertaining to a Proposed Article 28-a Lawsuit Against the State. This relates to potential budget implications in increasing the local governments retirement contribution share beginning July 1, 2009. Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that he has spoken with legal counsel who advises that the local Boards adopt a wait and see approach as this can be a particularly volatile political subject.

Linda Gaitskill requested clarification on the Superintendent's earlier reference to bullying rules being consistent for all schools. Mrs. Gaitskill attended a bullying conference recently with participants from Lafayette and Profile pertaining to Cyberbullying. Lafayette has adopted a statement on Cyberbullying but is not planning on implementing a policy at this point. She requested that the Policy Committees of the various Boards be included in this discussion. Superintendent MacMillan advised that he is looking for the procedures to be the same district wide and will certainly keep the policy committees updated as the discussion proceeds.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Manifests were distributed for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Sandra Stone advised the Board that the proposed 2% increase in the districts' share of retirement costs went into effect on July 1, 2009. It is anticipated that this will have little or no effect on the districts' budgets as the health insurance increases were estimated at 7% and actually came in at 3%.

Mrs. Stone advised the Board that she has not yet invested the monies from the completed litigation. She is waiting for the town appropriations for the summer months to be received and currently is utilizing the existing monies to carry the SAU.

Mrs. Stone advised the Board that the 07-08 audit is still not completed. It is quite an undertaking to become GASB 34 compliant and the DOE has been very good about issuing extensions. It is anticipated that this will be completed in the near future. She has received the first drafts of the Bethlehem and Lafayette Audits and is making needed additions and/or corrections. A brief discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY LARRY KAPLAN, SECONDED BY ROBERT ADAMS TO ADJOURN AT 5:55 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk