

Minutes - Draft

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Luther Kinney called the meeting to order at 5:35pm. This meeting is being held electronically via Zoom. The emergency order information is included at the end of the minutes.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken and the following board members were in attendance:

Bethlehem Board Members: Robert Weir, Rebecca Beno, Timothy Fleury, Jennifer Lucas, James Noyes

Lafayette Board Members: Luther Kinney, Megan Dentamore, Christie Gignac, Luther Kinney, Amy Mullins, Chris Thayer

Landaff Board Members: Cecily Yarosh, Meghan Hamilton

Lisbon Board Members: Robert Adams, Montgomery Chandler

Profile Board Members: Kimberly Koprowski, Timothy Burger, Ruth Heintz (joined at 6:30pm)

Also in attendance: Interim Superintendent Tari Thomas, Business Manager Toni Butterfield and community members Rhienna Miscio, Rusty Talbot and Kathryn Fleury

III. RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Luther Kinney called for a nomination for a new Board Chair.

Christie Gignac nominated Robert Weir, seconded by Kimberly Koprowski

There were no other nominations.

A roll call vote followed (R.B., T.F., J.L., J.N., R.W., M.D., D.G., L.K., A.M., C.T., M.H., C.Y., R.A., M.C., T.B., K.K), all in favor.

Luther Kinney turned the meeting over to the new board chair Robert Weir.

Chairman Weir thanked Luther Kinney for his many years of service as the Executive Board Chair.

Chairman Weir called for a nomination for Vice Chair.

Nomination by Robert Weir for Owen Clark, seconded by Luther Kinney

A roll call vote followed (R.B., T.F., J.L., J.N., R.W., M.D., D.G., L.K., A.M., C.T., M.H., C.Y., R.A., M.C., T.B., K.K), all in favor.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2019 MEETING

Chairman Weir called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2019 meeting.

Motion by Kimberly Koprowski, Seconded by Luther Kinney, To approve the minutes of the December 2, 2019 meeting as written.

A roll call vote followed (R.B., T.F., J.L., J.N., R.W., M.D., D.G., L.K., A.M., C.T., M.H., C.Y., R.A., M.C., T.B., K.K), all in favor. Motion passed.

#### V. APPROVAL FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO ACT ON BEHALF OF SAU#35 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS UNTIL THE NEXT SEMI-ANNUAL SAU#35 FULL BOARD MEETING

Chairman Weir called for a motion for approval for the Executive Board to act on behalf SAU 335 School Board Members until the next semi-annual SAU#35 full board meeting.

Motion by Timothy Fleury, Seconded by James Noyes, To authorize and empower the Executive Board of the SAU to act on behalf of the Full SAU Board for the interim period until the next semi-annual SAU#35 full board meeting.

A roll call vote followed (R.B., T.F., J.L., J.N., R.W., M.D., D.G., L.K., A.M., C.T., M.H., C.Y., R.A., M.C., T.B., K.K), all in favor. Motion passed

#### VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Interim Superintendent Tari Thomas introduced herself to the board members.

##### A. Reopening of School Plan

The administrative team has hit ground running ever since the governor issued the guidance for grades K-12. It has been very time consuming to work on the plan. Currently working on guidelines regarding health & safety. Sent out the document that has been being worked on for the board to review prior to the meeting. It is a working document constantly changing as it is a very complex plan. Interim Superintendent Thomas gave an overview of the parts of the plan. Currently working on several different models – returning to work, hybrid and remote. Staff members, parents and board members are part of a team at each school to work on the plan for their specific site. Each board member has the ability to provide comments on the google document.

Comments:

Christie Gignac - question about the consistency of the plans across the SAU – mask wearing, social distancing etc. Parents may have children at different schools.

Interim Superintendent Thomas - The Administrative team is working collectively on this. Lisbon is looking at a hybrid model with the other schools currently looking at a return to school. Really need a couple of more weeks to firm up the plans. Basic expectations regarding masks, social distancing etc. will be identical at each school.

Profile has moved the start date for students to September 8<sup>th</sup>. The first week will be 'soft opening' for staff.

Chris Thayer – comment regarding the impact of COVID counts – are you getting any direct daily data from the DHHS? This is critical to the plan.

Interim Superintendent Tari – no, looks up the data every day. Also receives updates via WMUR app.

Christie Gignac – during cold & flu season how will schools deal with these types of symptoms.

Interim Superintendent Thomas – This is tricky – these are areas that we need to refine the protocol for. Looking at the school nurses and health inspectors in the local communities for input on this.

Kim Koprowski – may be easier to have a better handle on this if we know how long it takes to receive test results.

Tim Fleury – is there a plan in place for SAU staff who travel from school to school.

Interim Superintendent Thomas - Director of Student Services Jennifer Watson is starting to trouble shoot this. Currently looking at different ways to accommodate to determine a plan for moving forward.

Tim Fleury – should the full board make a decision regarding delaying students until after Labor Day.

Interim Superintendent Thomas – Lisbon Board Chair not in attendance, hesitant to do at full board meeting. Most of the August board meetings are the second week of August. Could be discussed at that level.

Montgomery Chandler – Lisbon committee is talking about classes not starting until after Labor Day and doing a ‘soft opening’ the week before. Have not made a decision yet.

Robert Weir – this should wait until the individual board meetings to make this decision – although he is in favor of this.

Luther Kinney– Lafayette has not made a decision yet – but are thinking about doing this also.

Cecily Yarosh– Landaff hasn’t had a lot of committee discussions yet, waiting on a plan to have something to work with.

Robert Weir – will leave up to the individual school boards at their meetings. Seems that everyone is looking to do the same thing.

## B. Entry Plan

Interim Superintendent Thomas gave a brief overview of her entry plan which has been put on hold since work on the reopening of school plan has started. Goals are to understand the mission, vision, values and goals of the SAU and schools, to understand the operations including personnel, roles, responsibilities, protocols, procedures, culture and traditions. Will be looking at budgets, negotiated agreements, administrator contracts, safety plans and COVID guidance. Working on developing communication using letters, social media and interviewing stakeholders. SAU 35 districts are special and unique and really care for the kids. The kids are the center of the decisions that are being made. Will present her entry plan at the September individual board meetings or by October at the latest.

Luther Kinney– question regarding negotiations? How is COVID going to impact negotiations – usually do 3 to 5 year contracts and maybe a 1 year would be better at this time. There might be a need between the schools to collaborate while negotiating.

Interim Superintendent Thomas – NEA-NH (union organization) is constantly reviewing and suggesting changes. Will be reaching out to various groups to see how everyone is going to move forward with negotiations for this year.

## C. General Information

Interim Superintendent Thomas asked that the board members reach out to her with questions or suggestions as the year goes on.

Montgomery Chandler – are schools or the SAU actively looking for substitutes for this year?

Interim Superintendent Thomas – have not really looked at this yet. Some of the subs have indicated they do not want to return, this is something that needs to be addresses. Elementary schools are looking at team teaching and other options also.

Kimberly Koprowski – will need to make sure we have substitutes for the school nurses in the event the nurse is unable to work.

Interim Superintendent Thomas – we will need to look at this, may need to increase sub rate for the school nurse.

Chris Thayer – is there a shared opportunity with the higher education programs at Plymouth, granite state college etc.

James Noyes – works at a University in Vermont and they are trying to create opportunities for student teachers. Also, aware that several teachers are already stressed about this year and will need to do mental health checks on staff frequently to make sure that they are doing o.k.

Interim Superintendent Thomas – this is very important, we need to take care of our staff.

Chris Thayer – December meeting is taken up by the budget – when will the executive board start the process of looking for a permanent superintendent.

Robert Weir – this was discussed during interviews – hired interim to fill immediate need and that would allow us to start the process to hire a permanent superintendent and be able to include more stakeholders in the process.

#### VII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION PER RSA 91:3A I, II (if needed)

None

#### VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Timothy Burger, Seconded by Cecily Yarosh, To adjourn the meeting at 6:34 pm.

Roll call vote followed (R.B., T.F., J.L., J.N., R.W., M.D., D.G., L.K., A.M., C.T., M.H., C.Y., R.A., M.C., T.B., K.K, R.H.), all in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabrielle Granger-Clark

Board Clerk

## A Checklist To Ensure Meetings Are Compliant With The Right-to-Know Law During The State Of Emergency

As Chair of the SAU 35 Full Board, I find that due to the state of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:*

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the SAU 35 Full Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through by clicking on the following website address: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75917748498?pwd=U0haTkRLZnpqVndrZFpEUnpOaGhudz09>, meeting ID: 759 1774 8498 and password: 6bhcf2

b) *Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:*

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom. Instructions have also been provided on the website of SAU 35 at: [sau35.org](http://sau35.org) and posted outside the SAU office.

c) *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:*

If you have problems with access, please email at: [g.clark@sau35.org](mailto:g.clark@sau35.org)

d) *Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:*

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right - to - Know law.

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