

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Chairman Luther Kinney (arrived at 5:26 PM); Board Members Christi Gignac, Amy Mullins, Denys Draper, Chris Thayer; Superintendent Pierre Couture; Business Manager Tina Peabody; Principal Gordie Johnk; Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Kinney.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

LPTO REPORT

Denys Draper advised that once again the LPTO did not meet due to inclement weather.

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2017 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Johnk called the Board's attention to his written report distributed earlier today via e-mail. If there are any questions on his report, please let him know.

Principal Johnk called the Board's attention to the attachment to his Principal's Report pertaining to the NWEA (NorthWest Education Assessments) Results. This testing program addresses Math, Reading and Language Usage in Grades 2-6 and Math and Reading in K-1. Students may achieve scores in the following categories: Low, Low Average, Average, High Average, and High. Principal Johnk briefed the Board on each level test results fielding questions as necessary. A brief discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture recommended a change in the FSA (Flexible Savings Account) parameters. Currently these accounts which are set up and maintained by the employees for the purpose of additional out of pocket health insurance costs, have a 2.5 months grace period. If the funds in this account are not utilized within that time frame, the employee forfeits the monies. The SAU is looking to change this to a onetime \$500.00 rollover for one year. This would be a more equitable plan for the employees. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE CHANGE IN THE FSA (FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT) PARAMETERS AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the attempts to address the proposed decrease in adequacy aid is moving forward with the North County contingent of the NHSAA leading the charge. The group has recently submitted a letter to the editor of all North County newspapers. They are requesting that Board members write to their respective legislators advising them of the hardship that this decrease will cause in many districts. Currently there are several bills before the legislature addressing educational issues:

HB 525 will freeze the proposed 4% annual cut in adequacy aid.

HB 14 would affect the funding of the NH Retirement System. At one time the state funded 35% of this and that funding has been reduced to zero. This bill would reinstate state funding in the amount of 15%.

HB 155 supports the full funding of adequacy aid for Kindergarten students which is currently at 50%. This would increase funding for each Kindergarten student by \$1,700.00 each.

Superintendent Couture attended the Legislative Review presented by the NHSAA in Concord on Monday. Governor Sununu addressed the group briefly. It should be noted that he is in support of full funding for Kindergarten. He also supports school choice. This is known as Bill CACR-7 which would change the constitution to allow private and parochial schools to be included in school choice thus affording districts to pay tuition to these schools under the school choice program. The NHSAA is against this change. A brief discussion ensued.

The meeting scheduled with North Country Legislatures originally scheduled for February 13th is being rescheduled. This is not an easy task to accomplish but is in process. Superintendent Couture will keep the Board updated.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the SAU is looking to move the Professional Development Day from March 17th to May 15th for PACE initiative purposes. The teachers have additional work to complete before the full uploading of testing components is completed. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO APPROVE THE CHANGE OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIA REPORTS:

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Tina Peabody distributed Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the projected yearend balance is currently \$2,115.82.

Business Manager Peabody distributed copies of the handouts for this evening's budget hearing for Board information and review. The packets consist of the Warrant, Budget Summary, Estimated Revenue and the Proposed Budget.

Business Manager Peabody advised the Board that the Treasurer's Report contained in the Annual Report is not prepared by the Treasurer but by the Business Manager. Due to circumstances beyond her control she is requesting that this report be left out of the Annual Report this year. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY CHRIS THAYER TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MARCH MEETING AS REQUESTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Kinney advised the Board that tremendous thanks go to Human Resource Representative Gabrielle Granger-Clark for her efforts and diligence during the recent negotiations with the professional staff. Her contributions are greatly appreciated.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Denys Draper advised the Board that Superintendent Couture addressed the topics discussed at the meeting during his report.

BUDGET

Chairman Kinney advised that the Board will be looking at the Support Staff's Health Insurance now that the Professional Staff negotiations have been completed. A brief discussion ensued.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the pellet system continues to run smoothly. This is a more traditional winter than last year and the learning curve continues.

POLICIES / PROCEDURES

Christi Gignac presented the following policies for first reading:

GBCD	Background Investigation and Criminal Records Check
JCA	Change of School or Assignment
JLCD	Administering Medication to Students

Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRIS THAYER TO APPROVE THE AFOREMENTIONED POLICIES FOR FIRST READING AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Kinney advised the Board that the motion made at last evening's special meeting to raise the budget the amount of the anticipated costs for the negotiated agreement was incorrect. The minutes of the meeting will be corrected to eliminate this motion and presented for approval at next month's meeting.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO ADJOURN AT 6:45 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk