

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #34

Deering, Hillsboro, Washington, and Windsor

SAU #34 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 25, 2017 - 6:30 pm

Washington Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Room

Minutes

A. CALL TO ORDER—PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Hahn called the meeting to order at 6:37pm. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that the meeting was being recorded and will appear on the internet.

B. ROLL CALL

A roll call was taken by the secretary with the following results:

Hillsboro-Deering School Board	Rich Pelletier	Present
	Chris Bober	Present
	Paul Plater	Present
	Nancy Egner	Present
	Steve Hahn	Present
Washington School Board	Gayle Terani	Present
	Linda Musmanno	Absent
	Karen Belanger	Present
	Kathy Atkins	Present
	Cameo Mulliner	Present
Windsor School Board	Darlene Cuddy	Absent
	Gloria Landry	Absent
	Cynthia Stosse	Absent

Robert Hassett, Superintendent
Patricia Parenteau, Assistant Superintendent
Lori Schmidt, Business Administrator
Carol Fogarty, Executive Assistant

C. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Chair Steve Hahn
 - a) SB - 193 is currently back up for review. Monadnock United 2018 has drafted a letter in opposition of this bill. He proposed that the SAU #34 Board take an official position opposing this bill.
 - i. Discussion
 1. Robert Hassett - if this bill were passed, we could potentially lose 10% of our budget. No Superintendent supports this bill. We need a better plan than this current proposal. This bill would allow parents to choose to send their children to schools other than the public school, taking away the state designated money from

the school districts for those students. This could cause an issue with parents keeping their children home and pocketing the money.

2. Chair Hahn - The majority of people who would choose to take this option would be sending their children to a religious affiliated school. This brings up a Church vs. State issue since they would be using state money to fund their religious education.

3. Kathy Atkins - Went to a public state forum where this bill was being discussed. The people who were in support of this bill seemed to be very narrow minded about the specifics of the bill.

4. Patricia Parenteau - explained the difference between private schools and charter schools. Also commented that the SAU would have to pay for any services dictated by a student's IEP.

5. Rich Pelletier - Raised the question of who tests a student for an IEP. Is it different between public schools and charter schools?

a) Answered by Patricia Parenteau - The special services team evaluates students for IEP for both public and charter schools. The SAU retains the right for testing all students. The SAU in which the school resides is responsible for the IEP testing.

6. Chair Hahn - We can do this one of two ways. 1. Have everyone endorse the letter individually by signing it. 2. The SAU writes a letter, signs, and sends it to the newspaper as an official opinion on the proposed SB -193 bill.

7. Chris Bober - We should do this together as the SAU Board, as well as the three individual districts.

8. Robert Hassett - The first mention of school choice I ever heard was around 50 years ago. The discussion between public and private schooling is not new. Private schools are a choice.

9. Chair Hahn - The independent school sector is also against this bill. They do not want the federal regulations that come with the state funding. They also do not want to lose the right to turn students away from their institutions for whatever reason they deem fit.

D. PUBLIC FORUM—Limited to five minutes per person.

1. Comments made by John Segedy

a) Give back the money.

i. You should be saying "please" to keep it.

b) Suggests that a group of schools should be raising money to fight this bill in the courts if the SB 193 does pass.

2. Comment from Chair Hahn

a) The School Board Association is already in the process of fighting the SB - 193 bill.

3. Comment from Robert Hassett

a) There are people from other states making large donations to help pass similar bills.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Report

a. The opening was terrific. It went very smooth compared to past years.

b. Would like to discuss the SAU rent to the Hillsboro-Deering School district.

i. What is the point of paying rent? If the SAU pays \$45,000 to the Hillsboro-Deering School District, then the Hillsboro-Deering

School district pays the SAU \$38,052, is this misleading to the public?

1. Discussion

- a. Rich Pelletier - there were two reasons this was set up
 - i. If the SAU ever decides to relocate, they would have to pay rent for the new location. It was agreed on that the SAU would pay \$5,000 for rent the first year, and increase by \$5,000 the following years up to \$50,000 as a way of making sure that rent would not be an unexpected expense in the future.
 - ii. This allows all three school districts to share in the cost of the rent.
- b. Chair Hahn - Rent includes things like office space, utilities, plowing, maintenance, building upkeep, etc.
 - i. The rental agreement is a 10 year agreement. Is will be up in the year 2020.
- c. Nancy Egner - We need to establish what the market value of the office space is.
 - i. Also need to include the value of the amenities that are included in the current rent.

2. FY 17 Financial Information

- a. Only have a deficit of \$12,598.00
- b. The Superintendent salary was over budget, but was voted on and approved
- c. Line item 'Contracted Services' - saved \$8,719.71
- d. The copier lease ended in July 2016
 - i. The new contract was budgeted for, however a new contract was not agreed upon, so no new lease agreement was signed. Most likely will not enter a new lease agreement for the upcoming budget year either.
 - ii. The school owns the copier equipment that is in use now.
- e. The Phone budget doubled because the E-Rate Rebate ended.
- f. Computer equipment line item is over budget because several computers needed to be replaced. It was more cost effective to replace than repair.
- g. Fund Balance Analysis
 - i. The amount of projected unassigned funds is \$66,856.00
 - ii. \$70,000.00 was voted to offset the current fiscal year's expenses (This money was drawn from the reserve fund)

3. FY 19 Budget Timeline

- a. Tentatively keep the public budget meeting on November 13, 2017. The budget must be posted 2 weeks in advance.
- b. Budget draft to be sent to the board by October 4, 2017.

4. FY 19 Budget Planning and Expectations

- a. The board had decided to decrease the budget by \$30,000, which resulted in the termination of an administrative position that supported the business manager.
 - i. Lori Schmidt - would love to have an assistant. This support would greatly reduce pressure from daily activities. There is a public hearing on insurance costs next week. She needs input from the

board for the budget so she can prepare the draft budget to distribute by October 4, 2017.

1. We cannot seek new quotes for plowing services until late April next year.
- ii. Chair Hahn - Put everything that is considered a priority into the draft budget.
- iii. Kathy Atkins - Why was the support position removed?
 1. Lori Schmidt - the Board was directed to reduce the budget by \$30,000.
 2. Chris Bober - by reducing the budget by \$30,000, we were able to keep the bottom line the same.
- iv. Rich Pelletier - We need to propose a budget to the voters that will pass.
- v. Rich Pelletier - on the Fund Balance
 1. Last year we gave \$70,000 back to the tax payers
 - a. Proposes to give \$50,000 back this year.
- vi. Chris Bober - We should consider giving less back. We do not want to cripple ourselves.
- vii. Robert Hassett - Do we want a strategic plan for the school district?
 1. Cost would be around \$10,000
 2. The strategic plan would include all three school districts
 - a. Goals would need to be measurable with specified benchmarks and internal controls to ensure the document gets used.
 3. Money would go towards hiring an outside facilitator to gather public input.
- viii. Chair Hahn - Strategic plan would state where we are now, and where we want to go. The SAU strategic plan would need to include state and federal standards, but would be tailored to our specific goals. It would give people coming into the district a better sense of where the schools are.
- ix. Robert Hassett - Other school districts do have strategic plans. We would look at their plans when designing ours.
- x. Rich Pelletier - We have expectant increases to the budget already. Everything adds up quickly, and could become problematic when we present it to the voters.
- xi. Kathy Atkins - We need to present it to the voters in a way that shows them the value of having a strategic plan.
- xii. Robert Hassett - It makes sense that the money comes from the SAU budget. This can be discussed at the public budget meeting.
- xiii. Chair Hahn - Asked Lori Schmidt to add the strategic plan to the proposed budget draft. Also would like to include a return of \$50,000 in the proposed budget.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Comments from John Segedy
 - i. Curious why there is a loss of \$12,000.

1. Lori Schmidt responded - We have a surplus of \$44,000 on expenses. When the budget was prepared, we chose to apply \$70,000 of the surplus budget as well as \$30,000 in grant money to offset costs.
 - a. It was always budgeted to show a loss of \$60,000 for this year.
 - b. This was voted on and passed.
- ii. On the topic of Rent - He was on the board at the time. The intent was that a committee would be formed to determine the fair market value of the office space. He suggests that the current board continue to plan to do so at the end of the contract.
 1. Also noted that the board needs to keep in mind the tech services that are provided for them in their current location.
- iii. On the topic of the strategic plan - He feels it would end up sitting on a shelf.
 1. Based on the current tax structure, there is a limit on what can be done.
 2. Give back the \$66,000 to the tax payers

G. ACTION ITEMS

1. Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2017
 - a. Paul Plater moved to amend the minutes at Letter 'D' , No. 1-5 changing all votes of 5.25 to 6.25 for a total of 7 votes. Motion was seconded by Nancy Egner. Motion passed 5.25 - 0 - 1 (Gayle Terani abstained)
 - b. Paul Plater moved to amend the minutes at Letter 'L' , No. 5 changing the votes of 5.25 to 6.25 for a total of 7 votes. Motion was seconded by Nancy Egner. Motion passed 5.25 - 0 - 1 (Gayle Terani abstained)
 - c. Chair Hahn Moved to pass the minutes with the approved amendments. Paul Plater seconded the motion. Motion passed 5.25 - 0 - .75
2. Approve Budget Timeline
 - a. Chris Bober motioned to delete the October 12, 2017 meeting as the budget discussion meeting. Nancy Eger seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 - 0 - 0
3. Chair Hahn moved to submit to the newspaper that the SAU Board supports the letter presented by Monadnock United 2018 in opposition of SB - 193. Motion seconded by Chris Bober. Motion passed 4.65 - 0 - 1.35 (Gayle Terani and Paul Plater abstained)
 - a. Wording for the letter is as follows:
 1. In opposition to the proposed Senate Bill SB-193, the SAU #34 School Board endorses the initiative of Monadnock United 2018 as stated in the following letter presented to Governor Sununu, Mr. Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education, and the Members of State Senate and House Education Committees.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hahn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Motion seconded by Chris Bober. Motion passed 6- 0 - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Fleagle
Board Secretary