



SAU 35 Full Board Public Meeting

DATE: December 5th, 2023

Cafeteria @ Profile High School – 691 Profile Road, Bethlehem, NH 03574

Time: 5:30pm

Present:

SAU: Superintendent Kate Segal, Business Manager Toni Butterfield, Clerk Rhiannon Copithorne

Bethlehem: Robert Weir, James Noyes, Sarah Storella

Lafayette: Amy Mullins, Megan Detamore, Gail Clark, Joseph Garrison, Nicole MacKay

Landaff: John Barth, Matthew Copithorne

Lisbon: Robert Adams, Nina Brown (6:26 pm)

Profile: Kimberly Koprowski, Dr Alice Rocke, Adam Boyer, Timothy Burger, John Devlin, Ruth Heintz

I. Call to Order

CHAIRMAN BOB WEIR CALLED THE FULL BOARD MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:33 PM.

Roll call taken of SAU 35 School Board Members, 17 members attended from the start and 1 more joined during the meeting.

II. Public Input - None

III. Approval of the Minutes of the June 6th, 2023 Meeting

Amy Mullin and Nicole McKay are included as new board members for Lafayette but the new member should be Joseph Garrison. Brikenan is an incorrect spelling, it should be Brikena. Superintendent should be included when referencing Kate Segal.

MOTION MADE BY JAMES NOYES, SECONDED BY DR ALICE ROCKE FOR THE APPROVAL OF JUNE 6th, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES WITH AMENDMENTS. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

IV. SAU 35 Proposed 2024-2025 Budget

Chair Robert Weir highlighted key items on the proposed budget such as:

- Student Services Coordinator/Consultant (1210 & 2322) - The district administrators and principals requested more of the consultant's time. The consultant is full time at Bethlehem but going forward will dedicate one day a week to the SAU. The SAU will pay 20% of his salary and benefits.
- SAU Board & Audit (2310) – The SAU hired a new auditing firm to complete audits from prior years as the previous firm wouldn't do them, they blamed Covid.
- Homeless (2327) – Shift from a pass thru service, the homeless consultant is being billed to the SAU. Title 1 can be used by the districts for travel and supplies.
- Grant Writer (2345) – The SAU has hired an experienced grant writer so the increase is related to salary and benefits for this position.
- Operations & Staff Development (2390) – This increases each year, there are new expenses related to the new building such as insurance and electricity. The new rent is equivalent to the old rent which included real estate taxes.
- Support Staff (2340) – This increase includes a 3% raise to salaries and benefits for SAU staff and \$45,000 for a new position. The new auditing firm has identified a lot of weaknesses and a lack of policies, they have provided a plan to get SAU 35 bank on track with a deadline of the end of 2024-2025 school year. The auditors recommended getting another full-time position at the SAU. The E-board endorses this plan. It was also discussed that not all issues identified are at the SAU, the districts are also not following procedures. Business Manager Butterfield confirmed that all districts will be provided with their audit reports and findings at their December board meeting.
- Psychological Services (1230) – This will be the only pass thru service (previously there were multiple – Homeless and Special Education Coordinators are no longer a pass thru service). This directly impacts the district not through district shares. The Psychologist's salary is divided between districts based on her recommendation.

Regarding the District shares, Ruth Heintz questioned why the valuation for Lafayette and Bethlehem doesn't equal Profile's valuation. Business Manager Butterfield stated that she wasn't sure as the valuations are provided by the State but that she would find out.

Chair Robert Weir confirmed that the E-board is recommending this budget.

MOTION MADE BY JAMES NOYES, SECONDED BY MATTHEW COPITHORNE, TO APPROVE THE 2024-2025 BUDGET AS PROPOSED. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED.

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

MOTION MADE BY MATTHEW COPITHORNE, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, FOR THE 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. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. 2024-2025 School Calendar

Superintendent Segal presented the proposed calendar for 2024-2025 and noted that the only difference from the New Hampshire Suggested School Calendar is that SAU 35 does not have the NEA-NH Fall Instructional Conference as SAU 35 uses NCES.

MOTION MADE BY KIMBERLY KOPROWSKI, SECONDED BY GAIL CLARK, TO ACCEPT THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED.

B. Dec Slide show presentation

Superintendent Segal gave an update on the recent community events from the five district schools such as sporting events, Halloween celebrations, Veteran's Day ceremonies and Christmas Trees for troops. Superintendent Segal acknowledged that there are a lot of challenges for SAU 35 but that we are all in this together.

VII. Other Business

A. April 8, 2024, Solar Eclipse Discussion and consideration of early release

Superintendent Segal requested that the board approve a half day on April 8, 2024 for the solar eclipse. Superintendent Segal explained that many schools in the area and to the north are planning either a full day off or a half day. Bethlehem has already decided to have a half day, Alice Rocke recommended that Lafayette, Profile and Bethlehem do the same thing as many families have children in more than one of these schools. Chair Robert Weir reminded everyone that a half day would not need to be made up at the end of the year. Robert Adams mentioned that Lisbon has not decided yet and are still discussing options. John Barth stated that Landaff has not discussed this yet. Superintendent Segal confirmed that parents who want to take their children out of school for the day can request an approved absence. The decision to have a half day will be made by each district at their district board meeting.

VIII. Non Public Session as per RSA 91A:3. I, II - None

IX. Adjournment

**MOTION MADE BY MATTHEW COPITHORNE, SECONDED BY JAMES NOYES, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:42 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Submitted by,

Rhiannon Copithorne
E-board Clerk

Notice is hereby made that public comment shall be made without expectation of a response by any School Board member to matters raised by such commentary. The Board will not hear personal complaints about school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system. The expectation of all in attendance is to conduct themselves in a civil manner. The Board respects the right of the public to communicate its stance of matters of interest, but meetings are scheduled in advance to conduct business put forth on its publicly posted agenda only.