

SAU 56 BOARD MEETING

November 24th, 2008

SAU 56 Conference Room

6:30PM

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Diane Law, Supt. Soule, Bob Marquis, Marie

D'Agostino

VISITORS

PRESS

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Upon call of the roll the following members were present: Knowles, Lamaroux, Richardson, Riotto, Rivers, Cowan, Perkins, Macleod, Bolduc, and Fjeld. Absent: Owens and Houde.

2. **Comments By Visitors:** None

3. **Consent Calendar:**

3.1 Removal of Items from the consent calendar: Cowan asked that the SAU 56 Newsletter be removed from the consent calendar.

3.2 Approval of Consent Calendar: A motion made by Cowan seconded by Fjeld to approve the consent calendar as amended. **VOTE:** motion passed, unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes of: September 22nd, 2008:** Consent

5. **Curriculum:** None

6. **General Correspondence:**

6.1 SAU 56 Newsletter: Cowan stated that the reason he took this off the consent calendar was due to the article titled NHRS will weather financial markets. He stated that they can make all the promises that they want but he is not sure that we want to go down that path as an SAU. He stated that we could be held liable for this down the road. Supt. Soule stated that this information was taken directly from New Hampshire Retirement and asked what we should do. Fjeld stated that we should reference where we got the information. Riotto stated that it is nice that we say something, but she understands that we don't want to make it sound like the SAU is an expert. Supt. Soule stated that we do not advise anyone about NH Retirement we always refer them to the retirement system.

6.2 Committee Listing 08-09: Supt. Soule handed out a list of the committees and their members for review. Richardson stated that we don't currently use the budget committee and wondered if it should be listed. Bolduc stated that he thinks the budget committee should be used more. Supt. Soule stated that when we had a budget committee they would look at the budget and make adjustments and then it would come to the board the budget would be looked over again and it was a waste of time. Macleod stated that the Somersworth School Board is setting up a time for the legislators to come and wanted to know if Rollinsford would be interested. Knowles stated that they would.

7. General Functions: None

8. Business and Financial:

8.1 Review Budget: Chairman Richardson stated that instead of discussing the budget at this time we will finish the agenda. Perkins questioned the salaries line function 2320. He stated that the numbers listed on the staff listing sheet for the current year and what it listed in the budget sheets do not agree. Katie Krauss stated that this is due to the new data entry person and the increase in the technology integrators salary. Bolduc stated that he is also seeing that there is an increase in salaries of 5.5% for Certified and 14.74% for non-certified. Supt. Soule stated that this is also due to the new positions that were not in last year's budget. She stated that nobody is getting more than a 3% increase. Macleod asked what the travel line is for. Supt. Soule stated that this is for travel for workshops and meetings that staff has to attend. Knowles stated that the dues line has increased. Supt. Soule stated that this is due to new staff as well. Knowles asked if it was necessary to be in all of them. Supt. Soule stated that as Superintendent she needs to be a member to get updates, it keeps us abreast of what is happening. Perkins stated that as far as benefits we always talk about looking at how much we pay. He stated that in his experience the ability to attend conferences the cost gets shifted from the employer to the employee. He stated that the health care premiums and deductibles have increased as well. Given the state of the economy we find ourselves asking what can we do. He stated we still want qualified people, but when does that cost start shifting. He asked what we can be doing to keep the impact as minimal as possible. Supt. Soule stated that you have to remember that \$30,000 in this budget is the new finance software. She stated that they talked about the need to look at the benefit costs to control them. She stated that they looked at gradually reducing what the district pays for health, looking to increase the copay by 2%, if you do that the net salary increase would be around 2%. She stated that it would be around a \$3,000 savings. She stated it's not a lot but its not fair to ask this group to take a huge chunk when nobody else is. She stated that another thing that we can look at is when we hire new people you can change the percentage, but the current staff would be grandfathered. She stated that they looked at the surrounding areas. She stated that we need to be fair to our employees. Bolduc stated that we need to look at making sure that the employees don't lose money. Perkins stated that we have to start somewhere. Knowles stated that she doesn't think it's fair to start new people at a different rate, this is a very small office. Macleod stated that because negotiations are not all at once it is a non stop wheel. Perkins stated that we don't have a union issue. We need to start at the SAU to show the unions. He suggested that we come up with a model that we want to get to. Knowles stated that Supt. Soule's suggestion is fair, and anyone entering into negotiations will have to stick to have them pay more as well. Bolduc stated that another way to attack this is to look at different plans. Perkins asked what other districts are

using for plans. D'Agostino stated that there are basically only two companies who service school districts and municipalities. Healthtrust and Primex. Supt. Soule stated that another thing that is included in the budget this year is for a program called Alert Now. She stated that this is an automated system that would allow for information to be sent home to parents via the telephone regarding emergencies, cancelling schools, etc. Knowles asked if this could be covered under the Homeland security grant program. D'Agostino stated that we checked and it can not. Knowles stated that she would look into this as if we can get it we should try and go for it. Chairman Richardson stated that for the next meeting the board would like to see two more budgets, one with the 2% increase for health insurance and the \$30,000 removed for finance software and put into the fund balance, and one with a 2.5% increase to health and the \$30,000 removed and use the fund balance.

9. Employees

9.1 Winter Break: Supt. Soule stated that the reason this is on the agenda is that for Christmas the SAU office is closed on Wednesday and Thursday and she would like the board to consider shutting the office down on Friday. She stated that the staff will be using vacation time for this day. Perkins asked if this would also be the case for the break at New Years. Supt. Soule stated that she was not going to ask for this. A motion made by Fjeld seconded by Macleod to accept closing the SAU office on December 26th and January 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

9.2 Inclement Weather: Supt. Soule stated that if there is a two hour delay or school is closed she would like the board to give permission to have the staff come in when the parking lot is plowed and it is safe. She stated that she does not want anyone to put their lives in jeopardy. She stated that we have a phone chain in place and Andy will call public works to find out when the parking lot is plowed. Perkins asked if the office is usually fully staffed on snow days. Supt. Soule stated that not everyone comes in, but it is mostly fully staffed. Bolduc stated that he has reservations about this. He stated that we have a work schedule to go by and work that has to be done. He stated that he doesn't want to be too free with time. Supt. Soule stated that we are not asking to take days off, we are asking to come in when it is safe. Knowles asked if this would be a paid day or would they need to use time. Perkins stated that if we were to shut the office down they would not have to charge time, but if they were to call in then they would have to charge a vacation day. Richardson asked that a policy be developed and emailed to the board.

10. Building and Grounds: None

11. Pupil Related Matter: None

12. Board Reports: None

13. Old Business: None

14. New Business: None

15. Future Meeting Dates/Suggested Agenda Items:

- December 1st, 2008 SAU Budget Workshop 6:30pm SAU Office
- December 8th, 2008 SAU Budget Hearing/Vote CTC 7:00pm
- December 15th, 2008 Snow Date Budget Hearing
- SAU 56 Board Meeting March 23rd, 2009 SAU Office 7:00pm

16. Closing Comments

16.1 Visitors: None

16.2 Board Members: None

17. Non-Public Session: A motion made by Cowan seconded by Riotto to exit into non-public session in accordance with chapter 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel. Upon call of the roll motion passed, unanimously.

18. ADJOURNMENT: A motion by Cowan seconded by Riotto to adjourn.
VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Katie Krauss
Recording Secretary

Pending Board Approval