

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** Paula Woolley called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and upon call of the roll the following board members were present: Kunz, Woolley, and Nelson. Absent: Pass and Robinson
2. **Comments by Visitors:** None
3. **Consent Calendar**
  - 3.1 **Removal of items from the consent calendar:** None
  - 3.2 **Approval of consent calendar:** A motion made by Kunz seconded by Nelson to approve the consent calendar as presented. Approved were:
    - **September 18 2014- Minutes of the Rollinsford School Board Meeting**
    - **September 10 2014- Rollinsford School Board Construction Management Firm Interviews**
    - **Enrollment- September and October**
4. **Announcements:** A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to move item 5.6 to be first on the agenda. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.
5. **Discussion Items:**
  - 5.1 **SAU 56 Team Report:** Woolley stated that the report is in the packet if anyone has any questions.
  - 5.2 **Principal Report:** Woolley stated that it is in the packet if anyone has any questions.
  - 5.3 **Somersworth High School Update:** Sharon Lampros stated that the guidance department has two out of three new staff members and the CTC position is redesigned to reach out into the community and do tours of businesses and build more internships and get students out into the business world. She stated that they surveyed the junior class on their needs and concerns for the upcoming year and she will report on the stats at the next meeting. She stated that the PSAT was yesterday and they had 80 students participate.
  - 5.4 **Somersworth Middle School Update:** None
  - 5.5 **Rollinsford Student Representative Report:** Bailey Haines stated that the Pumpkin Festival was on the 11<sup>th</sup> and it was very successful, everyone had fun, it was a good turnout and the clubs made money. She stated that yesterday was the dig pink volleyball game which raised money for Jess Noonan a Breast Cancer survivor. She stated that there is a stand up to bullying conference tomorrow at UNH and there will be reps from Somersworth High School going. She stated that the field hockey season is coming to an end and they had a great season. Football has a few games left. She stated that they will be playing tomorrow night against Bishop Brady, next Friday they will be playing Epping and November 1<sup>st</sup> they will be away at Bow at 1:30. She stated that National Honor Society induction is on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the CTC conference room.
  - 5.6 **Performance by Noah Conte's 5/6 Classroom:** Noah Conte stated that they have been working a lot since the start of school on building a community within the class as well as

within the school and it started with Sticks and Stones. He stated that they created this song called RGS Community Song. The class then sang the song for the board.

## 6. Action Items

**6.1 Review of the following policies: IK-Earning of Credit, IMBD- HS Credit 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade coursework, JICJ- Unauthorized Communication Devices, JIH- Student Searches and Their Property, JIH-R- Search of Students, JLCC- Communicable Diseases:** A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to accept policy IK- Earning of Credit. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to accept policy IMBD- HS Credit 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade coursework. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to accept policy JICJ- Unauthorized Communication Devices. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to accept policy JIH- Student Searches and their Property. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to accept policy JIH-R- Search of Students. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to accept policy JLCC- Communicable Diseases. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

## 7. Financial Update:

**7.1 Budget:** D'Agostino stated that the budget update is included in the packet if anyone has any questions. She stated that there is a savings in the middle/high tuition of approximately \$200,000 and there is also savings in special education as well. She stated that she also included a timeline for the budget and after tonight she will submit it to the Budget Committee. Nelson stated that January 17<sup>th</sup> is a long weekend. D'Agostino stated that there is a timeline to follow and there is only one Saturday that fits into that timeline. She stated that it fell that way last year as well. Supt. Mosca stated that we will be having a board meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 to go over the budget. She stated that we changed software for food service and with that parents are now able to pay for meals online. She stated that letters will be going out by tomorrow and an alert now will be going out. She stated that they will also be able to view meals history and process free and reduced applications online as well and hopefully people will take advantage of it.

## 8. New Business

## 9. Old Business

**9.1 Transition Update:** Supt. Mosca stated that they sent out the surveys and to date in high school they have nine students going to Marshwood and 32 students staying in Somersworth and 11 they are waiting on responses. She stated that for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade all 11 students are going to Marshwood so as of next fall there will be no Rollinsford students at the middle school. Nelson asked if the plan is to be in touch with the 11 that have not responded. Supt. Mosca stated that they were told by a board member that they could have an extension pending a tour of Marshwood.

**9.2 Building Committee-Judy:** Nelson stated that the committee met today for three hours, Harvey and Banwell were there and it was a very good meeting. She stated that it was interesting to hear Harvey say that this is a gem of a building and they are looking forward to working here. She stated that there is work involved in getting to the GMP but they are already working on it. She stated that they recommended that we don't put a warrant

article on this year's ballot for a plan B if it doesn't pass. She stated that it made sense but they can talk about it. Woolley stated that it should be sooner rather than later. Kunz stated that he agrees if it doesn't pass that will be another year to do anything and he is worried. Woolley stated that there is a large group who would like to see the bond not pass and there will be no RGS. She stated that if we give the community this or these are the things we need to address with the costs, it doesn't necessarily have to have it as a warrant article but we need to inform the community. Kunz stated that either one of these will be a bond because a lot of stuff needs to be done. He stated that if we approach it having a bond proposal for the renovations and then have other things that are critical repairs. He stated that there is talk about the board putting people in a spot where they have to make a choice and some say close the school, it is becoming more of an option and people are looking for that cost. Nelson stated that it is something that we have to look at more closely. Woolley stated that her opinion is that is not the direction that the board wants to go in and that is our stand and we need to put the renovations out there and let them know if we don't do the renovations we have to do the other repairs. She stated that closing the school is not the best answer for the children of Rollinsford and she doesn't think that we need to do more and she doesn't think that we need to investigate any further, that is not the direction this board wants to take. Kunz stated that he doesn't think that we can ignore it. Woolley stated that we have an answer on the cost, it will follow the same tuition as the middle and high school and she doesn't think that we should do anymore until we are directed to. Kunz stated that he thinks that we need a two prong approach. Nelson stated that it is being done; we need to get the full amounts for everything. Lucas stated that we have to remember that it is more expensive to do the repairs over time. Supt. Mosca stated that the two option to look at is the renovations and what IBEA stated in the facilities analysis. Nelson stated plus add things that we have found since then. She stated that Harvey had some good ideas on marketing for the town and they have a study that they are going to find and share on how the property values go up if you have a grade school in town. She stated that it was a study done in Goffstown where the property values go down if there is no grade school. Kunz stated that we can't spare any information that is going to help us. Nelson stated that it will be early December before we get the GMP and we don't want to put out any other numbers until we have that number. Kunz stated that we need to explain the bond process. Nelson stated that at the next public meeting we can have someone come from the bond bank. Supt. Mosca stated that at the November board meeting we will have someone come to speak to the board. Nelson stated that there is an amount of misinformation going on and she has answered some emails from budget committee members. She stated that one thing that Harvey recommended getting a jump on is geotesting because it is very important to do it sooner rather than later. She stated that she would propose that we make a motion to authorize not to exceed \$10,000 to have this done before November. She stated that it is likely to be around \$7,000 but we have plenty of money in the budget to do it. A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to approve up to \$10,000 to be spent on Geotesting. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously. Woolley stated that she would like to stress to staff and the community that the budget committee meeting

is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and it is a very good place to be present and offer support to the grade school. We need to show support for this school. She stated that the sooner we start to be loud in support as people who don't support the better we will be. She stated that it is important that Rollinsford Grade School be a part of every household conversation until the vote. Kunz stated that there is a lot of misinformation and a lot of it is coming from the budget committee. He stated that questions are sent to us for answers and they are hearing the wrong information. Nelson stated that she would like as many people to hear Noah's class song because that is the essence of this school. Kunz stated that there are a lot of people here that if you asked them where the town congregates it would be here. He stated that he can't imagine sending all the kids to Marshwood; we would have no say in anything. Nelson stated that you would be giving up local control. Woolley stated that if it goes away it will never come back and there are good things happening here and the community needs to hear it and be a part of it. Nelson stated that this small school gives the students here confidence to go out into whatever is next and we need to get the message out so the town feels invested in every student here. She stated that the suggestion from Harvey is to bring the cost down to the smallest denominator such as a cup of dunkin donuts coffee a day to renovate this school.

**10. Future Meeting Dates/Suggested Agenda Items:**

- October 28 2014- Somersworth School Board Meeting
- November 17 2014- SAU Board Meeting
- November 18 2014- Somersworth School Board Meeting
- November 20 2014- Rollinsford School Board Meeting

**11. Closing Comments:**

11.1 **Visitors:** Tracey Laurion stated that she is happy to hear that we are not looking at giving another option. She stated that if we do she hopes that it is as big a number as the renovation so that it shows how much it is just to do the bare minimum. She stated that she wants that renovation to go through so the school can be where it needs to be. She thanked the board for helping to make sure this happens. Becky Wright stated that she is concerned about information going out to residents and if it is not the boards responsibility to squash this now it is just going to be fighting the same battle all year long. She suggested a strong clear sheet of these are the pros and cons and the proposed cost this year, next year, in five years and not just monetarily but with property values and the heart of this town. She stated that she feels that as a board if you're not going to take that on who will. Nelson stated that we won't know the actual cost until December. Wright stated that you can say projected numbers. D'Agostino stated that the bond is based on the cost and the earliest the school can go out to bond is June next year. She stated that you can take a BAN which is a small piece until you need the full funding. She stated that there are different ways to do it but we won't have a definitive number because there are so many moving parts. Nelson stated that we could do something based on today's figures. Supt. Mosca stated that we run the risk of putting different numbers out there. Wright stated that she is talking about how much to tuition kids to Marshwood; she would want us to respond to

that. Woolley stated that the letter we received doesn't talk about that. Kunz read the following letter that was distributed to community members.

**A Rollinsford Grade School Committee, comprised mainly of School Board members, has architectural plans for a multimillion dollar renovation and expansion of the Rollinsford Grade School. The school houses grades kindergarten through sixth. Approximate cost of the work will be \$7.1 million to be bonded for an undetermined period of time. Kindly note, this \$7.1 million is exclusive of the Grade School's operating budget which currently runs about \$5.2 million annually. Current grade school enrollment has dropped below 160 students. It is the intention of the RGS Committee and School Board to begin construction of the project next June. It is expected that a representative of the School Board will be present at the Town Hall during the November 4<sup>th</sup> vote. This will be an opportunity to ask questions as well as find out when the next open town meeting will be held for all residents to become informed of the details of this endeavor. This may raise the tax assessment by a presently undisclosed amount.**

Kunz stated that the letter is not signed. Lucas stated that what she is hearing from people is that it is totally about dollar signs not about the quality of education. We need to say that in 16/17 it is this amount of money and then in five years it will be more money, they don't care about the song the kids sang or the quality of education it is all about the dollar signs. We need to project out to show at what point it becomes more money. Kunz stated that the other issue is the town has their own shopping list of projects, this is not the only game in town, and we may be in better shape if it was. Nelson stated that Harvey and Banwell suggested we sit down with the town and ask them to give us this year to get this bond and then we will support them on anything next year. Kunz stated that unfortunately there are people on that board that don't want this. He stated that we need to be vocal and positive, everyone agrees the plan are outstanding and there is nothing in option seven that couldn't benefit the kids and residents for whatever they need to use this building for, it could really be a town center. Reegan Spinney stated that in the minutes from the last meeting she sees things about a plan B and the basic renovations needed and asked if we have a maximum projected cost. Nelson stated that the minimum would be what was in the IBEA study and would probably be higher than that. Lucas stated that plan B is still everything we need to do in plan A it is just breaking it over time because all of these things need to be addressed. Spinney asked if that would cost more because that is not a take away that she had from the last meeting. She stated that the town has a big history of piece meal and if you are not up front about it people are going to be just as interested as tuitioning out students. Supt. Mosca stated that we haven't sat and had a conversation on the budget and we need to do that first because some things may flush out during that process. She stated that once we sit and have actual budget numbers we will have a better understanding. Kunz stated that to Reegan's point to have to fight for something that is absolutely needed is unbelievable. Supt. Mosca stated that next month we will have some budget numbers and warrant articles need to be in by January. Nelson stated that we need to do outreach.

11.2 **Board Members:** Nelson stated that next public hearing on the building, she has heard from budget committee members that they think it would be good to have it before thanksgiving so people don't have their mind on other things.

12. **Non-Public:** None

13. **Adjournment:** A motion made by Nelson seconded by Kunz to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval