

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, Pass, Robinson and Nelson.
  2. **Comments by Visitors:** Nancy Dionne asked if the students going to Somersworth are being bussed next year. Nelson stated that we are next year but after that we don't know. Paul Cassault stated that he went to the meeting on Monday and it was really good and he learned a lot. He stated that he has a strong business background and one thing that stood out was the cost per student and people are losing sight of that. He stated that right now it is \$16,822 per student compared to the cost of south Berwick which is \$9213 per student without special education and bussing. He stated that if you multiply the differential by 156 students we are paying an additional \$1,196,000; he stated that these figures stand out. He stated that if we spend \$6.9 million the cost per student will go up. He stated that a committee should be formed to look at that. He stated that even if we save \$300,000 it could go to the building. He stated that he was also surprised that we only had one bid, typically you would get three bids from three qualified contractors and there should always be a clerk of the works.
  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 Pass to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
      - **November 20 2014- Minutes of the Rollinsford School Board Meeting**
      - **November 12 2014- Minutes of the Rollinsford Budget Workshop**
      - **November 12 2014- Minutes of the Rollinsford School Board**
      - **NHSBA Packet, Resolutions 2015, 2015 NHSBA Delegate Assembly and Schedule, Proposed Resolutions 2015, Proposed continuing resolutions for 2015, Policies, Resolutions Manual**
      - **Enrollment- December**
- Robinson stated that he would like to thank Katie for her amazing minute taking. He stated that he looked through the minutes for special topics and they were captured perfectly. Nelson seconded that. Kunz thanked Judy for her outstanding job the other night, you were everywhere and got everyone who wanted to speak and also letting the public know that we are looking at the questions. Everyone thought it was well done.
4. **Announcements:** None
  5. **Discussion Items:**
    - 5.1 **SAU 56 Team Report:** Woolley stated that the report is in the packet if anyone has any questions. Supt. Mosca stated that she would like to remind everyone of the delegate assembly, the resolutions are in your packet and Judy will be representing the board at that meeting.
    - 5.2 **Principal Report:** Woolley stated that it is in the packet if anyone has any questions

5.3 **Somersworth High School Update:** None

5.4 **Somersworth Middle School Update:** None

5.5 **Rollinsford Student Representative Report:** Bailey Haines stated that the student council was in both the Somersworth and Rochester parades in December. They did a polar express float and in Somersworth they got third place and Rochester they were first place. She stated that they did a can drive in November and the goal was 1000 cans and they almost met that goal. She stated that they are holding a clothes drive and have been collecting items since December 1<sup>st</sup> and the fair is tomorrow from 5:30-7:30. She stated that the math team had a meet on December 10<sup>th</sup> and came in 4<sup>th</sup> in NH. She stated that winter sports have started and there will be a track meet next week and Ice Hockey opens this Saturday at Rochester YMCA.

5.6 **School Calendar 2015-2016:** Pass stated that she and Alan met with Kate and they are in a holding pattern on the calendar because we are waiting for Marshwood to finalize their calendar so we need to move this to next month. Robinson stated that they could do some discussion tonight. He stated that with the transition to Marshwood we discussed that we should transition to a Marshwood type calendar. He stated that Marshwood doesn't start until after Labor Day and they go fewer days so we discussed putting the extra days in front of Labor Day but we are still waiting on the vacation schedule for MSAD 35. Supt. Mosca stated that their vacations are a week earlier in February and April. She stated that they hope to get their calendar finalized in January. Nelson asked if we run into conflicts with the teacher workshop days and how will that affect the teachers at RGS. Pass stated that is why we wanted to wait. Nelson asked if there are conflict can they be resolved for future years. Pass stated that she doesn't know the answer to that right now. Robinson stated that if we are going to Marshwood we should manipulate our dates and that would be his recommendation. Nelson stated that she agrees we should move toward a Marshwood calendar. Supt. Mosca stated that she will put it on the next agenda as an action item.

## 6. Action Items

6.1 **Policies 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: AC-Non Discrimination, GBA- Equal Opportunity Employment, GBEF-School District Internet Access for Staff, JEB- Rollinsford School District Entrance Policy, JICK- Bullying, JKAA- Use of Child Restraint, JKAA-R- Use of Restraints and Seclusion, JLCJ-Concussions and Head Injuries:** A motion made by Robinson seconded by Pass to approve policy AC as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Robinson seconded by Nelson to approve policy GBA as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Robinson seconded by Nelson to approve policy GBEF as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Kunz seconded by Robinson to accept policy JEB as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Robinson seconded by Kunz to accept policy JICK as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Robinson seconded by Kunz to accept policy JKAA as presented. Nelson stated that when they did the first reading she was concerned that there were no differences in restraint with the age of the child. She stated that Jeni indicated that there were bound to be changes to this but she is not inclined to vote for this until there are changes. She asked if we are left out in the cold if we don't vote for this.

Supt. Mosca stated that we have to have a policy in place. She stated that the real change was what we have to do to document and the other policy didn't include seclusion so there was a change in the law. Nelson stated that her concern is the age of the child and it is not cited in this policy. Supt. Mosca stated that we would restrain a five year old very different than a high school aged child. She stated that we have been trained in the techniques on age appropriate restraints. Woolley stated that it says in the policy that it is by trained school staff so it implies that they would do it differently. Supt. Mosca stated that all administrators have been trained and they receive yearly updates and the special education folks also receive training. She stated that this would be the last thing we would try to do especially with younger kids. Pass stated that on page 2 it points out the techniques so it implies age and size appropriate. Nelson stated that she understands that we have to have it but she found it to be not quite as specific as she would want it to be. Supt. Mosca stated that it ties our hands in a lot of ways. She stated that the attorneys have concerns with the conflicts with the police aspect of it as if staff intervenes with two students who are fighting they could be held liable. She stated that there were changes through the legislative process and she believes and the executive board sees that there will be changes but we have to have something in place for liability. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Robinson seconded by Kunz to accept policy JKAA-R as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Robinson seconded by Kunz to accept policy JLCJ as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

## **7. Financial Update:**

- 7.1 **Budget:** Supt. Mosca stated that it is included in your packet if anyone has any questions. Robinson stated that based on last night's meeting he listened to the budget committee and some of the things he heard he felt the same way. He stated that he doesn't believe that it is in the best interest to move forward with the budget and we should reevaluate items and talk about some things. He stated that even though we are showing a 2.9% reduction he would like to see that reduced more. He stated that in the budget most things are contractual but some things we can discuss. He stated that one thing that was brought up was reducing staff and increasing class size and he would like to study that and see how many staff we need to adequately educate 158 students. He stated that if we are going to continue to educate in Rollinsford we need to look at a way to reduce costs. Nelson stated that she agrees with Alan, this is a time for us as a board to send a message to the town that we understand where the town is and we need to make an effort. She stated that our job is to educate children and she feels strongly that we need to educate them here and educate them to a level the town can support. Supt. Mosca stated that she looked at this year's budget and there was a reduction of \$104,000 and next year is a \$161,000 reduction so over a two year period we are reduced by \$265,000. She stated that in the budget going forward it is with one less paraprofessional based on student need. She stated that is one thing we looked at and she is not sure that got lost in last night. Robinson stated that the point is made by the \$161,000 savings wasn't by reducing the budget it was by not putting money into a side account and not paying the architect \$25,000. Supt. Mosca stated that there was also a reduction in tuition and that accounts for some. Robinson stated that one thing he is

going to try to do in meetings is only speak to the facts and he heard some things that are not factual and he doesn't want to put out any funny numbers. He stated that there are two sides to what he is suggesting the board needs to look into reduction in staff and with the savings work on the big ticket items with the building in order to do things outside the seven million dollar bond. He stated that if we start reducing the budget by \$300,000 and put that toward maintenance we now have someone in the school to tell us where to best spend that money. He stated that we need to put a plan in place to reduce the operating budget but we could increase the budget to work on maintenance. Nelson stated that she supports what Alan is saying and it is important to do what we can and the biggest savings is a reduction in staff. She stated that the total number of students and the class size we have a boutique school in a blue collar town. She stated that we have to show the town that we understand that and look at reducing costs and look at all options and direct administration to look at that. Kunz stated that the timing is off because we just went through rehiring staff and we didn't ask those questions then and we brought new blood on board and as a board we bear that responsibility. He stated that he does think that we have been very aggressive this year in review of that budget and over the last few years we have seen a lot of emphasis on technology and we rectified those issues and this year we saw a reduction in that. He stated that there were a couple of areas that we increased such as oil because we were concerned about that but he doesn't see a lot of fat in this year's budget and we questioned and discussed it and we decided we would go forward. He then asked Alan if there was something in the budget that he would say needs to go. Robinson stated that he would like to see us keep education in Rollinsford but he is also an advocate for the tax payers and we need to change our philosophy on how we handle business in Rollinsford. He stated that there isn't something in here that he can say reduce that because he doesn't know enough about it. He stated that the only way to see a fast reduction is in contractual services and it is not easy to do this late in the game but unfortunately being new to the board he didn't fully grasp what they were doing. He stated that when they were planning to go forward with the bond he was so excited to be moving forward and it wasn't until they spoke to the bond bank and the town that he realized that he is a taxpayer too and this is an amazing school but we have a boutique school and it is going to be that with a reduction or it is going to be moving out of town into Marshwood. He stated that he doesn't think that in the long run that is the lower cost solution. He stated that we need to evaluate where we stand. At the next meeting we have to have class sizes and see what it would look like if we reduced one or two teachers or paras. He stated that he would like to see what kind of paras we can eliminate. He stated that he would like to see a proposal from administration on how we can reduce staff and save money in the budget. He stated that due to the 17<sup>th</sup> of January being the deliberative session we need to have a meeting before our next meeting to discuss the budget only. A motion made by Kunz seconded by Robinson to suspend rules to allow visitors to speak. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Mike Hill stated that his kids went to RGS but he would echo what the other gentlemen said that we should look at moving the kids to MSAD 35. He stated that kids are resilient and they will meet kids on the bus. He stated that you could also not get rid of the school and only send the kids for ten

years and use the savings each year and put it back into the building. He stated that Alan is echoing what the residents were saying with \$17,000 per student versus \$9000 and even if you jack it up to \$13,000 we will save a half a million per year. He stated that you could look at this becoming a town center and the benefits could be far reaching. He stated that they could go to a better school with a better track, a better gym there may be bigger class sizes but 25 is okay we don't need 15 or 17 kids in a class. He stated that in 2002 we had 210 students and we had the same staff then as we do now with 156 kids and we haven't changed anything. He stated that the board needs to do what is responsible for the town and the taxpayers and take a look at it; it could be a good option and a way to fix this building. Tracey Laurion stated that she would caution the board that there are 30 properties for sale and they are multifamily homes. She stated that the average enrollment is 180-190 and it is low right now but we have families moving in now. She stated that we need to look at the big picture before we cut. Lori Hess stated that central school in MSAD 35 already has modular and if Marshwood has to build we will have to pay for that. Nelson stated that it would be built into the cost of tuition. Kim St. Hilaire thanked Alan for taking initiative. Sheila Riley asked Tracey if those were properties in development or existing properties because if they are existing homes then they won't be bringing people in and she doesn't want to mislead people here. She stated that in terms of the renovations it would only accommodate 200 students max so it wouldn't be increasing class space and if we follow your suggestion and she would question Tracey's comment she doesn't see 30 new families coming in. Becky Wright stated that Marshwood is looking to build another school and we would be renting education for our kids. She stated that if you own a home and you invest in your home but you are talking about renting your education. She stated that the town won't bring the kids back; the history isn't there to support that. Paul Cassault stated that he has questioned how many kids are going to Marshwood; he stated that two people on his street are pulling their kids out of private school and sending them to Marshwood. Nelson stated that should education leave this building it can't come back to this building because the state wouldn't let us use this as a school again and it won't come back to this town. She stated that they hope to form a citizens committee to look into options so they don't rush into anything and do something they regret. She stated that there could be an option that we haven't thought of. She stated that there is a lot between moving all the kids out and a 7.7 million dollar bond. Robinson stated that he is learning that we have to budget for long and short term and he wants to do something starting next year and he doesn't want to ship the kids out without studying it first. He stated that some things we can do quickly and some things if you do them quickly could be done incorrectly. He stated that we need to talk about what we can do next year while we are studying long term. A meeting was set for January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 for a budget workshop.

8. **New Business:** Robinson stated that seeing we are on the option path we need to look at the options and it is important for the board to have factual information and do feasibility studies and one to start with is outsourcing all education to Marshwood. He stated that he would like to see what the numbers look like with all the costs included and the number per student. Nelson stated that we need to know what education is like there, we have no studies on

Marshwood elementary system so we need to make sure that we are sending kids to a school that is adequate for them. Robinson stated that we would need to study the total package and he wants the studies to be truthful and including bussing even if we have to add a bus. He stated that he wants a total feasibility study and for it to be transparent to the town and the board. Kunz asked if the kindergarten is half or full day. Nelson stated that it is a half day and all K-3 students would go to Eliot. Kunz stated that everyone has glowing things to say about this school. He stated that his concern has to do with the parents facing a serious issue if it is a half day program and it is 35-40 minutes away, if they get a call that their kid is sick and they are not right around the corner. He asked if there is any discussion on them changing to a full day. Nelson stated that is part of what we have to find out and it is best not to rush into this and do a study. Robinson stated that you made mention that our kids would go to a certain school and that has not been made public until the forum. Woolley stated that the response was to a question the Superintendent asked if they had room and how much it would cost, it was just an answer to those and nothing more. Robinson stated that the response has not been added to our minutes and asked if that can be added. Supt. Mosca stated yes. Nelson stated that the cost per student coming from that is lower than what we are paying grades 7-12. Supt. Mosca stated that she would suggest when we get ready to think about tuitioning students elsewhere that we have Mark Joyce come in and do the study and he would gather all that information with cost as well as the education piece. Nelson asked if there is a cost to that. Supt. Mosca stated yes. She stated that Mark is a Superintendent in New Hampshire and Maine and he is the director of NHSAA and he did the report when we were looking into tuitioning grades 7-12 and asked if that is what the board wants. Robinson stated that would be ideal. D'Agostino stated that she can ask for a quote. Woolley stated that he can direct us to other options as well.

## 9. **Old Business**

9.1 **Transition Update:** Pass stated that she has a meeting scheduled with First student to discuss bus routes. Lucas stated that in terms of feasibility of Marshwood, it would be important to get numbers to what happens to this community in terms of property values and to make sure we have firm numbers because the ramifications are more than financial. Nelson stated that she will have a meeting with the people who do the valuations. Lucas stated that the quality of life in a community without a school, we really need to be certain we know what we are doing.

9.2 **Building Committee-Judy:** Nelson stated that from Monday night's meeting they heard loud and clear to wait to bond. She stated that she would suggest that we don't go and bond in March for the renovations of the building. She stated that she would like to get the community involved and form an RGS community advisory committee to get information out to the public and look for suggestions on how to get the word out to do that. She stated that it needs to happen soon. She stated that we have to look at immediate work and Dick has created a list in priority order and some we have to do quickly such as bringing three phase electricity into the building because that would have to be done even if we bring something else into this building. She stated that she felt very strongly that a portion of the town doesn't trust the board and we need to be making steps to build trust and do what we can to get it back. She stated that questions were raised earlier and she just wants to make

it clear that we are not under any contractual obligations to Harvey or Banwell, they are doing work for us at a cost and no work has been bid out and should we have gone with the bond they would have bid out the job and they would have looked at local contractors. She stated that the bias against Harvey blindsided me. She stated that they made Harvey public for six months and this is the first time she heard anything and we may want to get to the bottom of that. Supt. Mosca asked if they should be in contact with Harvey and Banwell to let them know. D'Agostino stated that the agreement was to let them know so we need to have a consensus of the board that we are not going forward as a lot of things are hinging on that. Robinson stated that the objective is transparency and when we interviewed Harvey they were public and it is all public information. He stated that the town did not provide information from Harvey we were as upset as everyone else. Kunz stated that our choice was based on their experience with schools and he is not sure that he would change his mind; we based it on the facts. He stated that we need a balanced group on the committee Pass stated that we could send something home with the kids, she was disappointed that more families were not represented at the forum. Kunz stated that he didn't see many people who have kids here now. He stated that parents weren't able to get to the meeting and they didn't understand what was said. Robinson stated that he talked to parents who didn't speak up because they were very intimidated because the conversation was overpowered with people against the renovation. He stated that the board needs to listen to what we hear and we are doing that. Kunz stated that he is disappointed that we didn't see a balanced group, a couple of points got a little rough especially the comments toward us and they were completely unfounded. He stated that these doors are always open for these meetings and he really wish we would see more. He stated that we have been nothing but transparent. Pass stated that this wasn't an agenda we were trying to push, we were responding to the budget committee's recommendation and we did what we were asked to do.

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

- January 13 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting
- January 15 2015- Rollinsford School Board Meeting
- January 27 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting

Robinson stated that for the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> he would like to see student counts and the maintenance projects we can do without a warrant article. D'Agostino stated that if the board chooses to put maintenance items into the operating budget we have to present two budgets the regular budget and a default and if we get a default we have to remove anything new and if we put a project into the budget it will not happen. She stated that when you have a warrant article it is specifically for a project and they vote on that alone and she would hate for a default budget to delay it another year. Robinson stated that we have the town's attention and this is the opportunity to get things done. He stated that he would like to add the Marshwood meetings to the agenda. Supt. Mosca stated that she will start that in January.

**11. Closing Comments:**

11.1 **Visitors:** Mike Hill stated that most people do trust you and they appreciate what you do. He stated that every resident gets a population form that goes to the town so you could get that and that would be a quick way to find out information on how many kids you have coming in. Nelson stated that is a very good point. Brenda Berounsky stated that she appreciates that the board is listening to people and she was shocked that so many people were on board with sending the kids to Marshwood because you would be taking away the voice of our town and we would no longer have a say in the education and no say in the building costs if they built a new school or did renovations. She stated that she would rather invest in this town rather than someone else's. Lori Hess stated that her family moved here 16 years ago and she didn't want to move here and it wasn't until she toured the school that she said ok. She stated that if the school had not been here they would have bought elsewhere. She stated that Marshwood also has Pre-K and asked if that would be additional tuition. Nelson stated that is a good question and we would have to find out the cost for that. Reegan Spinney stated that she didn't go to the meeting but prior meeting felt like a witch hunt and asked for those of them who don't feel strong enough to get up and speak would they accept email and asked if they would weigh that equally. Nelson stated that yes they would and please do email. She stated that there was also an exit survey done and they got 92 of them and some have comments written on them and the vast majority of them said they can't swallow the cost. Dick Fortier stated that he gave a brief list and he needs to find out more information and the cost takes time. He stated that he took a class on cost savings and he would like to present that to the board. D'Agostino stated that Harvey said that they would help with the cost. Tracey Laurion stated that we tried to do the feasibility study for 7-12 with volunteers and it was so much work and it didn't work well so going out with a company is so much better and it is a great idea. Lori Hess stated that January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> is the play so come out and see it.

11.2 **Board Members:** Woolley stated that she would like to thank the visitors for coming all our meetings are open to the public on the third Thursday of the month and we all have emails, phone numbers that are always open. She stated that it is very important that everyone's opinion is heard and she feels badly that people felt intimidated. She stated that she felt that she wanted to get her back to the wall and she felt fingers were being pointed and this is not a problem that happened today, lack of maintenance has been years and years and it is hard to sit and swallow and listen to people say we never come to them with things that need to be done. She stated that being able to see what the ultimate fix would have been gives us the opportunity to make everyone aware that we need to do something and everyone needs to get involved. Thank you for coming tonight and Monday night and keep coming. Kunz stated that he also appreciates everyone coming and he is also sorry some folks felt intimidated. He stated that it was a little heated and there were comments about things being put off. He stated that the big ticket items are hard to swallow and when we bring them to the budget committee they aren't always received well. He stated that next year never came and they keep getting put off. He stated that the most important thing is that this building is safe and that is the only reason he is on the board is that he has children that go to this school and he wants to make sure that the school is safe. He stated



that we have been right up front and we need to get things done and it comes down to money. He stated that we work hard within the confines of our limited budget and the town needs to hear the same message to tighten the belts because all those things impact taxes. Robinson stated that he started out with new ideas and changing the philosophy of the school and we want the best education we can provide. He stated that he doesn't want to ship everyone out or spend 7.7 million but he wants to see our options. He stated that it is important for the town to be vocal and in the nine months he has been on the board he has only received three emails and no phone calls. He stated that it is hard to hear that we are not listening to the town because as soon as he heard from the town he listened but he just hasn't heard from the town. Nelson stated that she hopes that a year from now we are talking about the great education here at this school. Kate has the best education program so let's move on and get to that and see what that education program can do. Lucas stated that Alan said that when the town spoke he heard but a caveat is that is just a percentage of the town and there are people that come to me and say that they are petrified to speak and we need to make sure that we are finding the opportunity to get that voice heard and their commitment is just as strong and we need to find avenues for those people. Robinson stated that one thing he learned is that we not only have to think about his children and the 90 year old neighbor on a fixed income but all the people who have children. He stated that there are a lot of financial aspects and what I heard prior to the meeting were all great things. He stated that his objective is to use the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk about options and do a study and he thinks he knows what it is going to say but he needs to be sure. Supt. Mosca stated that the study may take up to six months. Lucas stated that Monday night someone mentioned a mailer or survey and that may get the pulse on everyone in the town. Nelson stated that is an excellent idea and she will reach out to UNH Survey center to see if they can help.

12. **Non-Public:** None

13. **Adjournment:** A motion made by Robinson seconded by Kunz to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval