

**SAU 56 School Board
Public Hearing/Board Meeting**

December 8th 2014

CTC Conference Room

6:30 pm

- 1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Kunz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm upon call of the roll the following members were present: Austin, Pepin, Paradis, Philpott, Bolduc, Hiller, Kunz, Rivers, Gibson, Pass, Woolley, and Nelson. Absent: Brennan and Robinson

Public Hearing

Tom Kunz opened the public hearing at 6:30pm. There were no public comments. The public hearing closed at 6:35 and the meeting immediately followed.

- 2. GENERAL FUNCTIONS:** Austin introduced Karen Hiller the new Ward 3 Somersworth Board Member.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Removal of items from the consent calendar: None

3.2 Approval of consent calendar: A motion made by Austin seconded by Paradis to accept the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

- November 24th 2014- Minutes of the SAU 56 Board Meeting
- November 17th 2014- Minutes of the SAU 56 Budget Workshop

- 4. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:** None

5. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

5.1 Budget 2015-16 Approval: A motion made by Woolley seconded by Gibson to accept the proposed 2015-2016 budget as presented. Bolduc stated that he didn't make the last meeting and he is concerned on the premium we have to pay for healthcare and he doesn't know how much longer we can go with this. He stated that a family plan is \$28,000 and in some cases this is more than we pay someone for a wage. He stated that he is not saying this to deny anyone anything. He stated that this is the SAU but we all have local budgets to be concerned with and this is a very high premium to pay and the total compensation is way up and he worries about fairness with the total compensation being up for one and lower for another. He stated that with an 18% increase we need to look at this and see what we can do. D'Agostino stated that the total premium for a family plan is \$28,000 but the district only pays 80% of that and the employee pays 20%. Bolduc stated that it is total compensation for the person whether were paying it or they are paying it. Nelson stated that she would like to comment on the record that she felt that the 3% increase was high and she wanted to lower it a bit to show the communities that the SAU board understands we are in tight places especially in Rollinsford. She stated that 3% is a bit high and is 1.3% higher than the cost of living and Rollinsford grade school and the town are going with 2% and she is going on record that she will be voting against this for that reason and it is not about whether people deserve 3% it is to show the community that we are cogniscent of what they are asking the voters to do. Austin stated that we are taking this out of the fund balance so the net impact is flat or a small decrease so there is no impact to the tax payer even with the 3% increase. Bolduc stated that he agrees with Judy, our teacher contracts do not show the same increase and the SAU should show leadership and he agrees with her and it is based simply on fairness and leadership. Gibson stated that he understands where you are coming from with leadership but there has been over the years the SAU has taken the lead on insurance premiums and holding the line on pay raises. He stated that over the last few years we have made demands on the SAU staff well above the norm and there is a flip side to showing leadership and that is rewarding the time and energy coming from the SAU staff with the area agreement work, Rollinsford withdrawal agreement work, and ongoing negotiations with various groups. He stated that the work load generated for all the staff at the SAU he thinks that they deserve some compensation to make up for that and 3% is not unreasonable for what we are getting. Bolduc stated that he doesn't want to diminish what they are doing but it is part of their job. Kunz stated that we need to have our finger on the pulse of what the town is concerned about and we do a good job of that. He stated that he went through the negotiations with teachers to get the best contracts and people should be paid a fair wage and we already put this to discussion and we had a good healthy dialogue on this topic. He stated that this wont have an impact on the tax burden the citizens feel. He stated that he thinks that they did a good job here and people are doing a lot of extra stuff especially for Rollinsford. Woolley stated that as a result

of the previous discussion she would like to move the motion. VOTE: Upon roll call vote the motion passed, 8 yes (Kunz, Rivers, Austin, Pepin, Paradis, Philpott, Gibson and Woolley) 3 no (Nelson, Pass and Bolduc) and 1 abstention (Hiller).

6. EMPLOYEES:

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS:

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **March 23rd 2015- SAU Board Meeting 6:30pm**

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Nelson stated that for all the people who agreed to be on the superintendent committee please stay after to figure out the next meeting time. Woolley stated that this board works well together and everyone can express their true opinion and it is a pleasure to be on this board. Bolduc stated that he was up in the air when he had to vote on the budget and his concern was the increase on health and he hopes that someday we can do something else with that. Austin stated that he agrees with Ken on the increase and we need to look at any option that becomes available but there aren't any right now. He stated that we are subject to employer mandates on Obamacare and if our insurance carriers find an option to make it more affordable we need to take advantage of that. Kunz stated that part of the increase was due to premium holidays. Gibson stated that this is a discussion not closing comments. Nelson stated that we should add it to the next agenda to discuss. Gibson stated that it is sad at where we are looking at benefits and taking them away from people in order to sustain ourselves as a municipality and it is unfortunate we are at that point of taking away rather than to give. He stated that he doesn't have the best insurance plan and because of that he hates taking away from people.

11. Non-Public Session: None

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Pepin seconded by Philpott to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.