

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, Robinson, Pass and Nelson.
2. **Comments by Visitors:** None
3. **Consent Calendar**
  - 3.1 **Removal of items from the consent Calendar:** Kunz asked that the email Concerns-Brenda Berounsky be removed from the consent calendar.
  - 3.2 **Approval of consent calendar:** A motion made by Nelson seconded by Pass to approve the consent calendar as amended. Approved were:
    - January 6 2015- Minutes of the Rollinsford School Board
    - January 14 2015- Minutes of the Rollinsford School Board
    - National Title I Distinguished Schools Announcement
    - Certificate of Accomplishment from School Care
    - NH Division of Historical Resources- Peter Michaud
    - Email- Rollinsford Grade School Information and Helpful Links- Peter Michaud
    - Press Release- National Title I Distinguished Schools Program
    - Attention: Rollinsford Tax Payers- Rollinsford Public relations committee
    - Enrollment: February
4. **Announcements:** None
5. **Discussion Items:**
  - 5.1 **Principal Update:** Woolley stated that Kate emailed us her report. Lucas stated that we have the invention convention every year and this year was unbelievable how innovative and thoughtful they were. She stated that two students Ella and Maddie that built a desk with magnets in order to be able to pull them apart to have their own desk space. She stated that they are applying for a grant from home depot in order to build one for each kid in the class. She passed out the first RGS times and the process that the kids went through; the kids took so much pride in this. She stated that the staff came in this morning to a school completely decorated by families with stars and hearts and treats in the teacher's room.
  - 5.2 **Somersworth High School Update:** None
  - 5.3 **Somersworth Middle School Update:** None
  - 5.4 **Rollinsford Student Representative Report-Bailey Haines:** Bailey Haines stated that the national honor society is doing a sock drive for veterans. She stated that they are doing a make your own pizza night and the proceeds are going to a family in need of help. She stated that student council is doing a wheelchair basketball game with the unified sports team in Dover and they will be giving out an award to the founder of unified sports. She stated that the math team has a meet the Wednesday after vacation. She stated that play rehearsal for the little shop of horrors is happening and debuts next month. She stated that

March Madness which is the seniors versus the community is on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. She stated that hockey had their last home game last night and it has been a long season for them and they had senior night last week. She stated that basketball is winding down and winter track is winding down and spring tracks is having sign ups.

- 5.5 **Calendar 2015-2016:** Supt. Mosca stated that she provided the board with a copy of the Marshwood proposed calendar but it is not approved yet but it is the best Mary had to offer. Woolley asked what the major differences are. Supt. Mosca stated that the first day of school is the first and it is the second for us and the major differences are the vacations and the last day of school. She stated that they also do early release days. Nelson asked if there was anything further on transportation. Pass stated no, the person she was scheduled to speak with has left. Nelson stated that we have to decide something soon, but the transportation is a huge piece of it. Supt. Mosca stated that Jen from first student has left and Lisa is our new person taking over. She stated help me with the bus confusion, we are set for buses for next year. Nelson stated that we are sending students to all the same places plus the start times are the same so we are not sure how they are going to handle it. Supt. Mosca stated that they provide a service and they will have to make it work. There will be one bus to Somersworth and one bus to marshwood and she assumes they will figure out some central pick up areas. Pass stated that we don't have anything in writing. Supt. Mosca stated yes we do, there is no additional charge and she can work out the details with them. D'Agostino stated that the bus routes are not done until the summer. Woolley stated that our concerns then would be February and April vacations. Nelson stated that we have to decide how to align RGS and stated that it makes sense to her to move toward a Marshwood calendar. Robinson stated he would agree. He stated that we need to keep in mind that Rollinsford grade school has more days in school and asked how teacher workshops fit in. Supt. Mosca stated that in the contract we are obligated to go 177 student days and 8 professional in service days but it also allows flexibility saying up to 187 days. Kunz stated that nothing prevents us from moving where those days are. He stated that if that helps us to better align with that calendar. Supt. Mosca stated that we need to take transportation out and put it aside because that is a non-issue and look at it from a calendar stand point. She stated that we have a contract with X amount of days and how those happen you will have to pick one calendar or another. She stated that one operates on early release days and one on in service days. She stated that whichever calendar you choose 177 gives us the hours we need and we have to make sure that we meet NH state law. Lucas stated that Marshwood does late arrival as well once a week. She stated as far as workshop days there is some value in doing some in the front and end of year also and then some spaced out throughout the year. Robinson stated that he is leaning toward the Marshwood calendar but we have to add a couple days to the calendar and then decide if we use the same teacher workshop days. Pass stated that they have a late start every Thursday for the high school not the middle school. Robinson stated that he is not sure that we have enough information tonight to make a decision. He stated that he is comfortable with making a partial decision by following the Marshwood calendar and then work out the professional development days and then tack on extra days at the end of the year. Supt. Mosca stated

that she will bring back a Rollinsford calendar with Maine vacations with 177 student contact days and will leave in service days. Nelson stated that she would like more input on the in service days. Robinson asked if there are any specific days where we would be bringing someone in. Lucas stated no, she plans them once the calendar is approved. Kunz stated that going forward we may want to have a conversation with Maine to align our calendars. Supt. Mosca stated that the board will have to make a decision in the future on if you want to change the in service days. Robinson stated that when we get the calendar he is assuming that Marshwood will be approving one soon and he would like to clear up the early release days on this with dates. Supt. Mosca stated that typically the SAU office is open but that will change a little because we will follow a NH calendar. She stated that she will bring a calendar back at the next meeting and they will need to take action on it.

**5.6 Email- Concerns: Brenda Berounsky:** Kunz stated that there are some concerns mentioned in the email and asked if the board would like to comment on it. Nelson stated that she did respond and the reason it is in the board packet is because it went to the full board so it has to be made part of the public record. She stated that she focused on the last paragraph where it states "If possible, I would like to see more of a team atmosphere where ideas are brainstormed and discussed openly. Even if they disagree, there is a certain feeling attached to the outcome if people are working together as one." She stated that this group has met three times and this is a non-school board group, it is a community group that came together due to the communities reaction to the 7 million dollar bond where we heard talk about closing the school. She stated that her observation so far is that not a single person so far by the second meeting has identified themselves as closing the school and asked what we can do to make this school viable. She stated that they are making a commitment of time and energy and talking to each other and finding a common ground. A motion made by Kunz seconded by Pass to suspend the rules to allow for public comment. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously. Emily Leach stated that nobody at the meeting identified themselves but there is a clear group made up of two even groups one interested in exploring K-6 in Marshwood and that voice is in the room and half the people are interested and half the people are not interested. She stated that everyone said our preference is to keep the school around but there are two different voices in the room. She stated that it is very balanced, and they have had very respectful and civilized conversations and great questions that they want answered and everyone is willing to do more. Nelson stated that originally the group was a way to share information and get the word out. She stated that she is the moderator and facilitator to bring things back to the board and her hopes is that first the town will recognize the value of this school in the town and second that the school community will recognize that they are part of a larger Rollinsford community and have a vested interest in the school and third that all sides will work toward a solid viable solution for a vibrant successful school. Woolley stated that since it is not a school board sanctioned committee she is not sure a member of the board being the spokesperson is in the best interest of the group and she has concerns with that. She stated that for the group to have credibility if they had their own spokesperson separate from the school board since it is not a board committee. She stated that this has been brought to my attention by the staff that

feels this way. She stated that she can see that you feel a vested interest in this however it is in the board's best interest if the spokesperson for the group reported out to the board. Nelson stated that she disagrees this is something that she has mentioned that this was going to happen and she thought she had the support of the board; this is the only way to find common ground. She stated that she is only the moderator and facilitator. Woolley stated that she doesn't feel that the board should be the voice for that committee. Robinson asked if there is anything legally bound that a board member can have a committee separate from the board. If there is no legal reason then stay right there. As to what comes to the board it depends on what is asked for. I think that it is great, it starts a conversation and gets information out to the community and it is getting people to discuss things. He stated that you can channel the energy to talk to the community members and have a more structured environment. If Judy wants to spend her time there he thinks that it is admirable and he doesn't think that the board should tell anyone what they should be doing. Kunz stated that he gets the idea that someone might think that there is a lack of objectivity to keep this together and focused but there is a whole bunch of people working on it she is just acting as a spokesperson bringing information to us as a moderator. He stated that there needs to be some catalyst to move things forward as we have time restraints and it is hard to get people to volunteer for things so this is giving it more consistency and keeping things focused. He stated that this is not any different than being on the building committee and having someone there helping out. Robinson stated that we are not acting on anything for that committee so we are only discussing this due to an email we received. Lori Hess stated that she got the feeling that it was a board sponsored meeting and she was under the impression that public would be invited and she would have been there if she would have known about it. Jodie Lavoie Carnes stated that if she is the moderator you have to appoint her as the spokesperson for the board. Robinson stated that she is doing it on her own time. Jodie Lavoie Carnes stated that legally she is already on this board so if she is moderating she may not give any opinions because she represents the board. Nelson stated that she is only facilitating. Jodie Lavoie Carnes stated that it is a conflict of interest. She stated that she already has a title and if she wants to be the moderator it could come back to bite her and it is better for her to sit in the chair and give your opinion rather than be the moderator. Robinson stated that it is not an official committee from the board perspective and he would like to get legal advice. Woolley stated that this is not an official school committee and why do we give any of their feedback any more credence than anyone else. Robinson stated that as I said there is no action taking place so how I get my opinion on my own makes no difference and what Judy brings to this board meeting is not any different than getting a call from Frank Guinta to meet with him. Supt. Mosca stated that the confusion might be taking the role as facilitator. Woolley stated that it would be in the best interest if Judy were just a member of the group and have someone else facilitate. Robinson stated that he would like to get legal advice. Supt. Mosca stated that she will check with legal. Woolley stated that it is nothing personal as chair she received some concerns and it is her obligation to bring those up. Nelson stated that she has learned that communication is a fragile art and people hear what they want to run with

and we all do that, but what surprises me is that she has been talking about this for over six months here and at other meetings and suddenly it happens and its misunderstood. She stated that meeting face to face is the best way to find a way to work together. Kunz stated that his opinion is that it is fine with you on this and if people are concerned we are here to address that. Nelson stated that if people have concerns it is an open meeting. Emily Leach stated that she got fifteen people's emails and everyone got an email about the meeting, were learning and will email it to the town to put it on the website from now on but everyone is welcome. Tracey Laurion stated that she went to two of the three meetings and everyone is listening to both sides and what is happening is wonderful. She stated that Judy is writing notes and telling everyone to talk nice to each other but she isn't putting in input. She stated that it may be a good idea if we have something to bring to the board to assign someone else to bring it to the board and speak for the group if people are worried so Judy is not put in that position. Woolley stated that she believes that is what she said. Chris Reishus stated that she was at the last board meeting and she is not sure what you have brought to the board. Nelson stated nothing, the board has not met. Reishus stated that we have asked questions and have come up with questions we want the feasibility person to be asking. She stated that they would like a work list on what has to be done to make this building okay and up to code and asked if it is possible to get the community people involved in offering bids. She stated that she doesn't know if they have that right or ability to do that but there are people in the community to do things. Woolley stated that getting people together and talking is a good thing and having a spokesperson who after the committee meets coming up with questions and reporting them at public comment session at our meeting, that is reasonable but where the water gets muddied is if there are three of us on the committee it is a quorum. She stated that there are perceptions and reality, the committee is discussing reality but it is not a board committee and what you bring to us has to be an unofficial request and the mechanics have to be such so it stays as a public committee. Reishus stated that the goals of the meeting can get wandering and sometimes she is not sure why we are there and she is concerned and we should have one narrow perspective. Woolley stated that is something you have to discuss with the committee. Kunz stated that in his opinion what would end up happening if this was a school board operated group is that someone would be screaming that it was one sided and all the work that is being done would be tainted, we don't want that so this has to be separate. Nancy Dionne stated that if the email hadn't been brought up tonight Judy would have brought up any information tonight. She didn't come here to give information and she applauds her for wanting to be a committee member and be involved and not do it as a board member. Becky Wright stated that the water is muddy and you are walking a fine line. She stated that if you are coming up with questions for the feasibility study what other stakeholders are being asked. She stated that she agrees that getting people together who don't see things the same way and learning from each other is great but the perception of being run by a board member and the perception that it was a board sanctioned committee that does not sit well with some people.

## **6. Action Items**

## 7. Financial Update:

7.1 **Budget:** Woolley stated that the budget update is enclosed in the packet if anyone has any questions. Nelson stated that we talked about getting the board involved in the budget process early on to get planning in place and asked if they should think about a board retreat to get their goals aligned. Supt. Mosca stated that the retreat will be on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Nelson stated that she wasn't impressed with the facilitator last time. Kunz stated that he thinks that we can do it ourselves. He stated that they should each come up with three items they want to discuss. He stated that he got the flavor at the town meeting that the questions we keep getting are around special education and we as a board need to be able to answer intelligently regarding cost and we are lacking any real strength in being able to explain. Supt. Mosca stated that she can make that part of the retreat. Kunz stated that we tiptoe around it and it becomes difficult because we don't want to go into detail to identify kids but we need some real background on how services are determined and the costs associated with how they are determined. He stated that we would all benefit from it. Nelson stated that we shouldn't have it at our first retreat we should wait and see if it comes out as a goal. Supt. Mosca asked the board to bring three things to the next meeting to come up with three or four discussions that night that we can address.

8. **New Business:** nelson stated that in the board packet we received information from Peter Michaud who is an architectural historian. She stated that he loves this building and is very enthusiastic about the school and one of the things that he has offered to come and address the board and the town and she stated that she would like the board to consider inviting him. She stated that he offered to help list the Grade school on the National Register as a gift and there is not much of a downside, if we get it registered we can get matching funds for restoring things such as the cupola. She stated that she would like to invite him to the next board meeting. The board agreed and Judy will be inviting him to the next meeting. Nelson stated that for information for the board at the last SAU meeting they discussed the Superintendent evaluation and the subcommittee has been working with Jeni on the process and timeline and they will be ready to present to the board on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. She stated that it will be a year round process that will focus on measurable goals. She stated that what is going to be different is that the standing chairs will be the evaluation committee. She stated that the town election is on March 10<sup>th</sup> and she will be out there to talk about the school and urging people to vote for the budget and the contract and let them know that the estimated tax impact is down. Woolley stated that it is worth pointing out that the budget committee does recommend them as well as the board. Nelson asked the board if they were ok with her giving out a handout with the tax impact and that this has been recommended by the budget committee. Robinson stated that factual handouts are beneficial. Jodie Lavoie Carnes stated that she would remind her that election law is that you have to stand 20ft from the building. D'Agostino stated that she would recommend that the information lists that it is from the board so that people know the source of the information.

## 9. Old Business

9.1 **Transition Update:** None

9.2 **Building Committee-Judy:** Nelson stated that we need to get next steps. Robinson asked where we were with the feasibility study. Supt. Mosca stated that we need to set up a meeting with the board. Robinson asked if we could do it before the next board meeting. Supt. Mosca stated that she will check his availability but it may be better to do it outside of a meeting. The board scheduled a meeting for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 at RGS. Kunz stated that the first meeting with Dr. Joyce last time we really drove the ship on what questions we wanted and he spared no detail, if there is something that you are concerned about he will find it.

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

- February 25 2015- Marshwood School Board Meeting
- March 4 2015- Marshwood School Board Meeting
- March 10 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting
- March 19 2015- Rollinsford School Board Meeting
- March 23 2015- SAU 56 Board Meeting

11. **Closing Comments:**

11.1 **Visitors:** Nancy Dionne asked where the calendar will be posted. Supt. Mosca stated that it won't be posted until it is finalized but once it is it will be on the Rollinsford town site and the SAU site. Chris Reishus asked if at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting is when our committee should bring their questions. Woolley stated that the first meeting is with the board. Kunz stated that the first meeting is where we set the parameters and we as a board may want to seek more information but it's a process. Chris Reishus asked in the feasibility study why the only option is MSAD 35 and why aren't they looking at any other options. Robinson stated that hasn't been decided but keep in mind that we have already chosen MSAD 35 for our 7-12 students so that weighs heavily for scheduling but that hasn't been decided yet. Chris Reishus stated that part of the reason for the committee is to get correct information to give out to the community and she wants to make sure on a statement that was made that it would save us \$800,000 a year to send the elementary students to Marshwood. Nelson stated no, she made that statement but it was a back of the envelope guess and they hope that is one thing that Dr. Joyce will find out. Robinson stated that it was taken out of context and it wasn't a factual number. Reishus stated that now this whole town thinks its \$800,000 and it's not a sure fact. Nelson stated that she knew once she said it that she shouldn't have. Reishus stated that who was it that said we have a boutique school in a blue collar town. Nelson stated that she did make that statement but it is the perception in the town that the school is expensive. Reishus stated that the term boutique is negative. She stated that there was a discussion in our committee about class size and someone asked about how they determine class size and it can't be determined until August. She stated that from her experience class sizes now are unusual for Rollinsford grade school. She stated that the impression out there is that this is the way it has been but it hasn't been and it is a very unusual thing that is happening right now. Kunz stated that things that are being asked are from people who we haven't heard from in years. He stated that class size and the quality of education from people who haven't had kids in school for years. He stated

that we are becoming hyper vigilant about things and we have been better as a board to only put out things that are entirely fact based. He stated that an area for improvement is class sizes and we have to be right on top of it. Reishus stated that you also have to go with the value of a good education. Kunz stated that more people are concerned with where they are sending their checkbook to school. He stated the some people are out of touch with what is going on here. He stated that he would like to see more people who have kids in school to add their experience. Reishus stated that the newsletter that the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders dis is what is happening here and anti-bullying has met his match at RGS, the kids are unbelievable. She asked if the handout that is being done for Election Day will be approved by all the board. Nelson stated yes, she will send it out. Reishus asked if they changed the vacation to match Marshwood. Woolley stated that yes that is the recommendation at this point but it is not finalized yet. Gail O'Connor stated that they did pennies for patients and they set a goal for \$500 and they have raised between \$900-1000 and because they met their goal they will be giving Mr. Lausberg a Mohawk tomorrow at 1:45. Charlie Dionne asked if there is any problem with snow on the roof. Supt. Mosca stated no, not anymore we had someone here today. Nancy Dionne stated that she doesn't have a student here anymore but when her son came here there were 210 students and not there is 161 and she doesn't understand why were so worked up about 20 kids to a class isn't that what were allowed. Lucas stated that if we condense classes we will go well over 20. Robinson stated hat at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting he had a conversation with Kate on class size that you should look at, it lays it all out. Woolley asked that we keep this to public comments only. Emily Leach stated that they talked at their committee meeting about volunteers helping to provide labor to help and asked I that was legal for them to do that and asked the board to find out and get the answer.

11.2 **Board Members:** None

12. **Non-Public:** None

13. **Adjournment:** A motion made by Kunz seconded by Nelson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval