

## SAU 56 School Board

### Board Meeting

January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

SAU Conference Room

6:30 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tom Kunz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm upon call of the roll the following members were present: Austin, Bolduc, Rivers, Anderson, Nelson, Pepin, Hanlon, Kunz and Hiller. Absent: Gibson Robinson, Brennan and Leach
2. **NON PUBLIC:** A motion made by Austin seconded by Nelson to exit into nonpublic session in accordance with chapter 91a:III (B) personnel. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited into nonpublic session at 6:30pm. A motion made by Pepin seconded by Nelson to exit out of nonpublic session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of nonpublic session at 6:45pm.
3. **PUBLIC SESSION:** A motion made by Austin seconded by Bolduc to accept the resignation of Michael Quigley as presented effective December 16<sup>th</sup> 2016. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Pepin to accept with deep regret the retirement of Jeni Mosca. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Kunz stated that now that we have accepted that we are in search mode. He stated that Don, Judy and himself met and talked game plan in order to get the ball rolling immediately because there is so much involved. He stated that the recommendation is that we go through NHSBA. He stated that they will guide us through the maze of searching. He stated that simultaneously we will be forming a committee which we will need to talk more about the make up of that committee. He stated that it should involve community members and admin so we will need to piece that together. He stated that we need to talk about the size of the committee because availability may be an issue for some people. He stated that we will have a member of the NHSBA come out and meet with the board or committee. Austin stated that someone will come out to whatever group we decide and begin to lay out the process because we may want to hear the proposal and approve it first before moving on to committee. Kunz stated that the cost is going to be around \$10,000 but they do all the screening so it is a bargain for what you get. He stated that during the conversation we had there were questions on time frame and the expectation is to make an offer well before the year ends. Hiller stated that she would like them to start sooner so they can work with Jeni. Supt. Mosca stated that it depends on if they are a sitting Superintendent but once you have it all done we will start conversations. Hanlon stated that we need to have enough time because we may get to a point where we don't like any of the candidates and we want to reopen it. Kunz stated that there are qualities we should be looking for and Judy has made a list for herself of what is important to her. Hiller stated that she did some research on qualifications and skills. Hanlon stated that one of the biggest turnoffs of the candidate opposite Jeni was that he made us wait because he didn't want to show up without his jacket and it was locked in his car so you never know what you are going to see. Kunz stated that we had a forum in Rollinsford too and it was very well received and it gave the opportunity for the final two to meet and take questions. He stated that it is an interesting process. Austin stated that part of the problem with the last candidate is that there was a lack of understanding of the community of Somersworth and that it is a blue collar community versus worrying about wearing a jacket. He stated that in terms of timeline if you want the Superintendent to start in July you make the offer in May which gives time to negotiate a contract and allow them to come into the office. He stated that if you have a finalist in May that means you take the month of April to do site visits and community visits. March you spend doing interviews, February you would select candidates and look at applications. He stated that we are already at January 9<sup>th</sup> so the ball is moving quickly here. Hiller asked how long does the NHSBA need. Austin stated that part of the presentation will be a timeline. He stated that they have done these hundreds of times. Kunz asked if they will be looking to us for criteria. Austin stated that they will look for us for guidance and design the process to meet those requirements. A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Hiller to allow the executive committee to reach out to the NHSBA to begin the process of Superintendent search. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Austin stated that he is president of the NHSBA so he can call Ted and get it set up. He stated that the initial presentation should be to this board while we build the search committee. Nelson stated that we should talk about the committee. Rivers stated that when they did the search for assistant superintendent we had 13 members on the committee and that was a lot of people. Nelson stated that not mentioning names of people we should come up with

what we want the makeup of the committee to be. Kunz stated that he thinks that we should have an equal number of Rollinsford and Somersworth board members. Nelson asked how many. Austin stated two from each board. The committee came up with the following makeup of the committee:

#### **Search Committee**

- **4- School Board (Two from Each Board)**
- **3- Administration (One from Rollinsford and Two from Somersworth)**
- **2- SAU Staff (One Admin and one support)**
- **2- Educators**
- **2- City Council/Selectman (one from each)**
- **PTA Member ??**

Hiller stated that having a parent on the committee such as the PTA can help to have them report back to everyone once the deal is done. Hanlon stated that we can ask the NHSBA about what we have for the list and get their input. Bolduc stated that we could put a blurb in the paper that we are looking for interested people because the first thing that they have to be is interested we don't want a committee made up of disinterested people. Kunz stated that they have to be committed. Nelson stated that she likes the idea of not having a community member or parent because it brings us down to 13. She stated that they will get their day with the finalists at the forum. Kunz stated that we also may get questions on how we picked that person. Austin stated that he respectfully disagrees. He stated that his first experience on a committee was as a PTA president. He stated that he feels it would be a mistake to not have the community represented. He stated that he has had one person approach me already, a community member with no students but has experience working with school projects and would be a good addition to the search committee. He stated that if we all spend time thinking about a person you know versus advertising we can come up with a couple of names. Kunz stated that we can rely on the expertise of NHSBA to see what they are thinking. Nelson stated that once the committee is formed this becomes their baby and they will be making the initial cuts. Kunz stated that the next step will be to contact the NHSBA. Austin stated that he will contact them tomorrow so they can get a jump on it. Supt. Mosca stated that they can pick a date and she will get an email out to everyone. Hanlon stated that he doesn't see any harm in reaching out to people. Supt. Mosca stated that she can talk to the SAU office. Austin stated that it is important that whoever we choose can contribute to the process because they will need to debate. Kunz stated that it is important for this board to hear from NHSBA first. Hanlon stated that the board may want to hear what they have to say before they decide if they want to be on it. Supt. Mosca stated that she can move on the SAU office and the administrators and educators. Pepin asked who makes the decision if we have a lot of interest. Austin stated that he wouldn't approach anyone at this point. Kunz stated that we shouldn't make the decisions until we meet with the NHSBA and hear from them on what it is all about. Pepin asked if there are any administrators who are qualified to apply. Supt. Mosca stated no, nobody has superintendent certification. Nelson stated that the administrators are critical in this process as we want the new person to move in the same direction we are going, we don't want someone doing a 180 we want someone who can keep the path. Supt. Mosca stated that she will wait to hear from Don and she will get the agenda out.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion made by Nelson seconded by Bolduc to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.