

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and upon call of the roll, the following board members were present: Nelson, Cavanaugh, Kunz, Leach and Anderson.
2. **Comments by Visitors:** Kelly Anderson stated that she is here to talk about the transition from sixth to seventh grade. She stated that she had a great conversation with Kate today. She stated that her first child had an easy time going through things and she is an exceptional student but my second child had a meltdown the second week of school with being overwhelmed with the workload. She has homework in multiple classes each night, quizzes, and tests and she is freaking out about it day to day. She stated that she is not feeling comfortable with how organized she is to get it done. She stated that she sees what they are doing here and then very traditional Marshwood is way over here and is very different. She stated that our kids in the sixth grade need to have some overlap so their first introduction into seventh grade isn't so overwhelming. She stated that the more she has talked to parents about it others have said the same thing but all have said once they get through it it is all ok. She stated that is what we are doing here a disservice for our kids and would it be better to start our kids in the sixth grade in Marshwood. She stated that she knows we are doing things to work together with marshwood in this school but it's a thought for all of you guys and she thought she would throw it out there for you to think about. Donna Brand stated that they are here to announce that they intend to have a student from Germany beginning next September and they were told to come. Nelson stated that it is on the agenda so we will talk about it then. Jodi Lavoie Carnes stated that she is a selectman and also on the recreation committee and she is here to ask for next summer if you are planning any renovations that they make sure they have the gym and one classroom. She stated that as soon as you know if you can let us know that would be great for budgetary purposes and what we can offer our kids. She stated that it was a struggle this year not having a classroom so if you can fit it into your coordination that would be awesome.
3. **Consent Calendar**
 - 3.1 **Removal of items from the consent Calendar:** nelson stated that she would like to remove enrollment from the consent calendar and that will be discussion item 5.4.
 - 3.2 **Approval of consent calendar:** A motion made by Leach seconded by Anderson to approve the consent calendar as amended. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - September 14 2017- Minutes of the Rollinsford School Board Meeting
 - Email from Marjorie Schoonmaker, DOE subject: school approval facility visit notice
 - Rollinsford Grade School-October Newsletter
4. **Announcements:** Nelson stated that the town hired a new full time road agent George Guilmette. Jodi Lavoie Carnes stated that if anyone knows any CDL drivers for plowing send them our way. Nelson stated that Dr. Brown let the SAU board know that she will not be seeking the permanent position and the Superintendent search is open and in process. She stated that Dr. Brown has been competent, I already appreciate her professional guidance, and

we plan to take full advantage of her. Dr. Brown stated that she has loved working with you and everyone in the community of Rollinsford. She stated that they are a great board who are kid focused. She stated that the commute is an hour and 45 minutes each way so she looks forward to being closer to home again.

5. Discussion Items:

5.1 **Principal Update:** Nelson thanked Kate for a thorough update. Lucas stated that the enrollment in kindergarten is changing every day. She stated that they have received positive feedback regarding the newsletter and Facebook page. Leach stated that reading this highlighted for me how flexible the staff is with all the changes. She stated that she sees adjustments being made with the transition to seventh grade, we are constantly improving the education for our kids, and she really appreciates it. Nelson stated that we have made great strides in math and asked how do we measure if it is working. Lucas stated that we just adopted math investigation. She stated that it is grade level not multi grade so we made that adjustment and 7 out of the 24 kids in the 7th grade are in advanced placement. She stated that longitudinally we won't know for a while. She stated that we have beginning and end of year assessments but we won't have over time.

5.2 **Marshwood Student Representative Report- Noah Niedzolkowski:** None

5.3 **Somersworth Student Representative Report-Bailey Haines:** Haines stated that the student council did spirit week this week and tomorrow will be blue and white day for our annual spirit rally. She stated that they will also be doing penny wars to benefit hurricane Harvey victims. She stated that youth to youth is hosting the homecoming dance on Saturday from 7-10. She stated that NHS induction is on October 17th at 7:30 in Mulligan's Grill and they have 14 new members. She stated that they have donation bins to benefit hurricane Harvey victims and they have been in direct contact with schools so we know exactly what they need. She stated that all classes and clubs are participating in the pumpkin festival on Saturday from 10-4. She stated that the freshman class is fundraising, sophomore class is having open gym and game night fundraiser, junior class is choosing a prom theme and doing a Yankee candle fundraiser and the senior class is looking at senior banquet locations. She stated that interact club is selling Halloween grams. She stated that the football team has homecoming tomorrow night at 7:00pm and our team is 5-0 and Campbell is 5-0 so it should be a good game and the field hockey team has homecoming game against souhegan at 4:30.

5.4 **Enrollment:** nelson stated that she noticed that we gained a student in Somersworth and she wanted an answer to that. Dr. Brown stated that there is a student who is there for half a year and will be here until January. D'Agostino stated that they were in Somersworth last year and they thought they were not coming back and they showed up when school opened.

6. Action Items

7. Financial Update:

7.1 **Budget:** Nelson thanked Marie for pulling out the warrant articles so we can see where they fit into the budget. She asked what was in function 2900. D'Agostino stated that it is workshop reimbursement, workers comp, unemployment and Medicaid fees. Anderson stated that on

page 1 there is \$45,000 broken out in maintenance and asked what that was for. D'Agostino stated that was what we had in the approved budget. Nelson stated that the reason that not all the tuition is encumbered is because we haven't received the marshwood figures yet and once we do, we will encumber it. Nelson stated that Dr. Brown had a follow up with Dr. Nash on the 50-50 custody split and special education costs. Dr. Brown stated that she was open to the splitting in those circumstances. She stated that she needed to think about the tiered system but she was interested and could see the benefits for both parties. She stated that they are looking at a program approach similar to out of district placements and that is the research that they were going to do. She stated that they are meeting next Thursday. Nelson stated that anything that saves time will save both districts money. Dr. Brown stated that it will help with budgeting and for my staff it saves time and also created friction between the two districts.

8. New Business:

9. Old Business:

9.1 Community Connections: nelson stated that Erin shared the FAQ on the activity bus and it was very thorough and answered a lot of questions. Leach stated that it will be helpful to answer questions for people. Nelson asked if they can get it out in the public. Leach stated that we can get it on the SAU website under Rollinsford information. Nelson stated that we could have a school board FAQ page. Dr. Brown stated send it to me and I will put it up. Nelson stated that many people in town may be interested in the price difference. Leach stated that we can put it on the town website or have a blog sent out through the town blog and link to the SAU site. Cavanaugh stated that she would like to have a few more FAQ's to get rolling before we post them publicly. Nelson asked what other topics do we want to try to hit. Kunz stated transition to middle and high school because we probably have the same questions each year. He stated that the SAU site is hard to find things so we need to make it easier to find things. Anderson stated that they can talk to Kate about what things are being done to help with the transition. Nelson stated that this is supposed to be a school board FAQ so it should be school board stuff. Kunz stated that we are sending out the surveys. He stated that it could be things that people are most frequently asking about and it can be a good area where the board can provide quick answers. Nelson stated that the reason she is asking is it is one thing for you to talk parent to parent and another for the board saying that this is the answer. Anderson stated that the sixth grade parents are wondering what is being done to help with the transition and not all parents are aware of. Nelson stated that it is not our job to say what is happening we need to direct them to Kate to put the information out there. Leach stated that she would recommend something on transition to answer questions on how to find out about sports and where to get information on those kinds of things but we need to be careful about answering softer edge questions. She stated that there are a lot of questions on transition that we can answer. Kunz stated that one are for links and emails and who they can talk to. Nelson stated that we use the word transition all over the place so maybe we can call it something more specific. Cavanaugh stated that we talk about getting the teachers on salary steps and we could talk about what that means and why we are doing it because it is a confusing issue. Nelson stated that when we have an agreement is a better time. Leach stated that why wait we can answer the basics.

9.2 Marshwood Contract Items: Nelson stated that we started a list last year so we need to identify those.

9.3 Late Start Marshwood: None

9.4 Payment of Tuition for Exchange Students: Nelson stated that we discussed this last year about a couple who wanted to have an exchange student and we had a discussion and came to the conclusion that while we agree 100% it is one of the best things to happen it is a lot to ask the community to pay tuition and as a board we didn't feel we could ask them to pay for that. Anderson stated that we hoped that Marshwood would take that on. Nelson stated that it will be something that we bring up in the contract negotiations. She stated that if we had a high school it would not be an issue. Donna Brand stated that if we do have a student living with us attending marshwood, would his family have to pay tuition. Nelson stated that it is our understanding that Marshwood will require tuition to be paid. Brand asked who the contact person would be for this students' parents. Dr. Brown stated Dr. Nash. Nelson stated that it is possible as we had a student pay before we had a tuition agreement and the state tuition for a private citizen is often lower than what we pay. She stated that the next step would be to talk to Dr. Nash at Marshwood to set up a private tuition agreement.

10. Future Meeting Dates/Suggested Agenda Items:

- **October 18 2017- MSAD 35 School Board Meeting**
- **November 1 2017- MSAD 35 School Board Meeting**
- **November 9 2017- Rollinsford School Board Meeting**
- **November 13 2017- SAU Budget Workshop**

11. School Events:

12. Closing Comments:

12.1 Visitors: Celia Leopold stated that with the kindergarten enrollment going up how many students before the class has to be split. Nelson stated that it just became a large class in the last couple of days so the school will be keeping an eye on it. Leopold stated that on the FAQ it would be nice to put a blurb on the town website on where to go to find it. She stated that as a parent there are two things that you could work into the future FAQ's, curriculum and what is expected of the kids to be learning or what model they are using and also sports offerings. Nelson stated thank you for your comments.

12.2 Board Members: Kunz stated that before I did this I coached sports and it has to come from the parents. They have helped organize and he would encourage parents to get together on that. We need parent coaches and it is a great thing for kids. If you want a team to exist you will get them going. He would encourage parents to get together on that in coordination with the recreation department. Jodi Lavoie Carnes stated that they have a line item in the budget for basketball and we want to help but they can't find anyone on the subcommittee anymore.

13. Non Public: A motion made by Cavanaugh seconded by Anderson to exit into nonpublic session in accordance with chapter 91-A: 3 II (a) Student Issue and II (b) Personnel (e) Negotiations. VOTE: motion

passed, unanimously. Entered into nonpublic session at 7:30pm. A motion made by Kunz seconded by Anderson to exit out of nonpublic session. Exited out of nonpublic session at 8:30pm.

14. Adjournment: A motion made by Kunz seconded by Cavanaugh to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval