

Rollinsford School Board

October 10, 2019

Rollinsford Grade School

6:30pm

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Upon call of the roll, the following Board Members were present: Nelson, Leach, Cavanaugh, Kunz and Anderson
Nelson stated that Lane was attending tonight in place of Gadomski.
2. **Comments by Visitors:** None
3. **Consent Calendar:**
 - a. **Removal of items from the Consent Calendar:** None
 - b. **Approval of consent calendar:** Kunz made a motion seconded by Leach to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - September 12, 2019- Rollinsford School Board Meeting Minutes
 - September 18, 2019- Rollinsford Withdrawal Committee Meeting Minutes
 - Enrollment
4. **Announcements/Communications:**
 - 4.1 **Superintendent's Update:** Lane stated that we usually share when our Professional Development Days are and tomorrow is one. She stated that October is a huge month for State Reporting which generates rosters for State Testing to Adequacy Aid, so there is a lot that we have been doing for this. She stated that we need to make sure everything for students is captured accurately, including the students who go to Marshwood. She stated that she wanted to give a huge shout out to Alyson Rachkoskie the Administrative Assistant here at Rollinsford Grade School. She stated that she had been down to Rollinsford to work with her and she had come up to Somersworth for some training. She stated that Rachkoskie has been able to make some nice connections with the staff in our office as well as the Administrative Assistants in the Somersworth District. She stated that she wanted to recognize her because she has been great.
Nelson stated that the work that is done by all of the Administrative Assistants as to State Reporting use to be outsourced but as a cost savings measure it was brought in-house. Lane stated that it has presented challenges but we have been working as a team and it has been great to have Rachkoskie be a part of that.
 - 4.2 **Principal's Update:** Hartford stated that when he first came to RGS Charter was the Administrative Assistant and there were times when she did not know something there was only one person she went to. He stated that now there is a wealth of people that Rachkoskie can go to because they have all been trained together and are supporting each other. He stated that tomorrow is the second Professional Development Day with the Literacy Consultant who was hired this year. He stated that they are focusing on the classroom instruction of the classroom teachers to give kids the foundation skills. He stated that they have a new music teacher, Cory Wells. He taught some of the elective music classes at Seacoast Charter School and he is a lifelong musician. He is looking to bring some of those experiences here. He stated that they are slowly getting the chorus

and band up to speed. He stated that Mr. Fortier will be here at the next meeting to present his budget for next year. He stated that he has his next projects in line and has things he wants the Board to plan for in the coming years. He stated that Emily Spear had written a grant and received \$2,000 to take the third and fourth grade to the Browne Center. He stated that they had held a flu vaccination clinic and had 45 students receive the vaccine. He stated that today was Fire Prevention Safety Day. He stated that the PTO is doing a Halloween Event. He stated that it would be in the gym with games, music and dancing. He stated that Julie Person is putting on a series of 5 presentations entitled It Takes a Village. The second one is October 23rd from 6-7:30. This month is Personal Body Safety. Nelson asked if we are still looking for a Mainstream Coach? Hartford stated we are.

4.3 Marshwood High School Student Representative's Report: Nicholas Garrepy: Garrepy stated that he had done an interview with Mr. Scully, the new principal. He stated he wanted to hear his initial thoughts on the school. He is a genuine and caring person. He stated that he had asked him about controversial policies like the backpack policy and cell phone policy. He stated that Scully said that he wanted to look at XY and Z to lead to the right answer. He stated that last Thursday and Friday we had some Danish Exchange Students at the school who shadowed with some of our students. He stated they attended the Pep Rally. He stated that he found their comments about society as a whole very interesting because they were in my Government Class and AP Language Class and it was interesting to hear about their culture and views on the world. He stated that last week was Homecoming Week. He stated that next Wednesday the 9th, 10th and 11th graders will be taking their PSAT's. He stated that it is playoff season shortly. He stated that Parent-Teacher Conferences started yesterday and then again next Thursday. He stated that Quarter 1 ends November 1st.

4.4 Marshwood Middle School Student Representative's Report: Jackson Buckley: Buckley stated that the school sports have been going good. He stated that there are two new teachers, one in Art and one in French. He stated that 7th grade students took a field trip to Vaughn Woods and some went to the Sarah Ornea Jewett House. He stated that on Fridays they have Hawk Pride where we recognize students for good citizenship.

5 Discussion Items:

5.1 Withdrawal Committee Update: Nelson stated that in September, 2018 Somersworth formed a committee to look at withdrawal from SAU 56 and upon legal advice, Rollinsford also formed a committee. She stated through joint meetings and meetings alone each came up with their own plan, and on Monday the Committee saw the first draft of the Plan and the Plan is to withdrawal from SAU 56 and then contract back with them for services. She stated that the next step is for the Rollinsford School Board to start negotiations with the Somersworth School Board. She stated that the Somersworth Board has made it clear that they are very happy staying with the current funding formula. She stated that we need to decide who will do the negotiations and she thinks that perhaps the Chairs should just start talking. Leach asked if the contract would be available to look at prior to the vote in March? Nelson stated that they hope

to have the contract ready to be included in the Plan to submit to the Board of Education in November. Kunz asked if there was a comparative cost in the Plan? Nelson stated that there was. Anderson asked if Somersworth was agreeable to this? Nelson stated that Somersworth Committee has taken a step back to allow Rollinsford to present their Plan to the State. She stated that if for some reason it does not get voted for by our town, they will reconstitute their committee and start the process of withdrawal. Kunz made a motion seconded by Leach to allow Nelson to begin negotiations on behalf of the Rollinsford School Board with the Somersworth Board to discuss a contract with them for services. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Nelson stated that she will be in contact with their Chair, Mark Richardson. Leach asked if this means the Withdrawal Committee is dissolved? Nelson stated no, the Committee stands for a full year and will stand through the vote. She stated that Lentz is very committed to get the information out to the community. Anderson stated that if this were to pass it will look the same. Nelson stated yes, and she stated we are going from owning our home to renting our home. Anderson asked if we would not attend SAU Meetings? Nelson stated that was correct.

6 Financial Update:

6.1 2019-20 Budget Update: Krauss stated that all salaries and benefits have been encumbered. She stated that right now there is a savings of \$90,000 but that is for the paraprofessional position that we did not fill. She stated that if we fill that position, the amount will go down. She stated that we are waiting for the tuition invoices from Marshwood, although I did receive the regular tuition bill today. She stated that until she gets the Special Education tuition bill I will not have figures. She stated that on the regular education bill there is only 149 students which is lower than we budgeted for. She stated that the State Budget has passed. She stated that in terms of Adequacy, Rollinsford will receive an additional \$77,000. She stated that Kindergarten Aid, that use to be a separate line item, has been built into the Adequacy Formula and they have eliminated Keno-garten. She stated that last month she reported that they would not receive any Special Education Aid as there were no students who qualified. She stated between all of those three items you are looking at a net of about \$18,000. She stated that they have changed the rules with Medicaid Reimbursement and who can sign off on these services, so Michaud and myself are meeting with Multi-State Billing next week to get some of these answers. Michaud stated these issues have been brought up in the past but this seems to be the year that they are looking for more accountability. Krauss stated that they have put an RFP out for transportation. She stated that it is a district wide RFP as our services are up with Durham School Service. She stated that for regular education, the Rollinsford contract with First Student is not up until next year. She stated that they put out two RFP's. She stated that the bids are due October 25th at 2:00 and you are welcome to come that day for the opening of bids.

6.2 Budget 20-21 Timeline Draft: Krauss stated that the Budget Preparation Schedule was in the packet. She stated they listed one for tonight at 5:30 but felt it was too preliminary so it was cancelled. She stated that she mirrored it against last year's schedule. She stated that last year we did the deliberative on a Tuesday night so I put the same in this schedule. She stated that she put the DRA Schedule in the packet so that you can see the timeline. She stated that next meeting we can update and finalize this schedule.

7. New Business:

7.1 First Reading Policy: Nelson stated that all of these policies are required except for the second one which is recommended. Leach asked what we pay subs? Nelson stated that the reason this was in here because we never had a policy for long term subs. Krauss stated that we pay subs \$70 a day now. Nelson stated that if you are subbing long term it will increase to \$90 for uncertified subs and \$100 for certified. Leach asked why there are duplicate policies? Lane stated that there are various sections that the same policy needs to exist. She stated that there is a personnel section, there is a student section and the policy applies to both. Anderson asked about the section in non-discrimination Policy AC. She stated that she is asking about the words “the District will not discriminate against any employee who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault or stalking”. Lane stated that this was to shorten up the old language. She stated that this was the language that is recommended by the School Board Association. She stated that the word “victim” is the key piece that was added. She stated that in the tobacco policies the big change was adding e-cigarettes. Leach stated that she was concerned because the drug policy speaks about distributing and the tobacco policy does not. Cavanaugh asked if we were talking K-6 on these policies? Nelson stated that these are for the Rollinsford School District that does include the Marshwood students, although they have to abide by their policies. Kunz stated that it states in the Tobacco Policy that you cannot possess it on school property. He stated that you cannot distribute it if you cannot possess it. Anderson stated that she wanted to ask about the Student reassignment-best interests. She stated that she wondered if it would go to the town? Lane stated that this is something the parent would come forward with a request and the Superintendent would have to make a decision if they had met criteria that would be honored. Nelson stated that up until last year this was a decision made by the Superintendents. She stated that the big change is that it has to be brought before the Board for the final decision.

- **GCG- Part time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment**
- **AC- Non-Discrimination**
- **ADB/GBEC- Drug Free Workplace and Drug Free Schools**
- **ADC/GBED/JICG- Tobacco Products Ban: Use and Possession in and on School Facilities**
- **JCA-Change of School Assignment-Best Interests**
- **JEC- Change of School or Assignment-Manifest Educational Hardship**

7.2 Second Reading Policy: Nelson stated that she had a conversation with Gadomski and he felt that this policy is about Student Records and Retention and that data should have its own policy. Leach stated that she feels that tapes that students are involved in are student records. Lane stated that there is a policy on video surveillance on School Property which is Policy EEA. She stated that video can be a part of a student record. Nelson stated that she did not want to state in a public session how long they keep data. She stated that Hartford would be able to tell us in the future. She stated that in EEA it states that if a video is about a student matter it will be saved in accordance with the law. Anderson asked what other schools do? Leach stated that she wonders what the future use of videos is in accordance with student records. She stated that if a

student is disciplined due to a video, this video becomes part of that student's disciplinary record. Nelson stated that she feels this requires more thought and discussion. Lane stated that they can find what other schools do. Krauss stated that in the transportation policy, the videotapes need to be kept for a period of time. Nelson stated on the Student Wellness Policy she said there would be lots of work to do on it, with setting up committees. She stated that we have a physical education teacher 2 days a week. She asked if we need to look at whether we have the right amount of physical activity, health and wellness in a week? She asked if the Board wanted to remove the Records Retention and vote on the others?

Leach made a motion seconded by Cavanaugh to approve policies AC-R, BCA, GBEA and JLCF, removing EHB and EHB-R. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

- **AC-R-Nondiscrimination: Title IX Grievances**
- **BCA-School Board Member Ethics**
- **EHB- Data/Records Retention**
- **EHB-R- Local Records Retention Schedule**
- **GBEA- Staff Ethics**
- **JLCF- Student Wellness Policy**

8. **Old Business:** None

9. **Action Item:**

9.1 Marshwood Tuition Agreement: Nelson stated that one of the things that had been discussed and we wanted was regarding a foreign exchange student and it was added to the Agreement. She stated that some of the other items that she hoped would be there we could not legally do unless it went back before the public again. Leach stated that it states in the Agreement that "Rollinsford needs to give a two-year notice if withdrawing and pulling out of the Agreement." She stated that she does not see the same for Marshwood if they wanted to withdraw from the Agreement. Nelson stated that this was the way the original Agreement was written. Leach stated that she would like to see something on their end that if they wanted to pull out of the Agreement they need to give us two years notice. Nelson stated that she agrees. Lane stated that it is very vague. Nelson stated that we will take this back to Gadowski. She stated that the whole purpose of a contract is not to say that we trust you.

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

- **October 28, 2019-Grade 6 Community Forum- 6:30 PM**

Nelson stated that one of the Board's goals this year was to explore the pros and cons of sixth graders going to Marshwood. She stated that there was a Warrant Article last March and it passed but it was advisory only. She stated that the Board did not feel it was the right time to do this. She stated that they will have Marshwood folks here, Middle School Folks here, our folks here and will be discussing cost and the pros and cons of sixth graders going to Marshwood. Cavanaugh asked what should be done to get the word out? Nelson stated Facebook, the Town website and Hartford can send something out to parents. Lane stated that we have the robocalls and can do that. Krauss stated that there are the town email blasts.

- **November 14, 2019- Rollinsford School Board Meeting, 6:30 PM**

Krauss stated that for the November 14, 2019 meeting they would be starting early for a Budget Workshop at 5:30 PM.

- **November 18, 2019- SAU 56 Board Meeting-6:30 PM- Mulligan's Grill**
- **December 12, 2019- Rollinsford School Board Meeting, 6:30 PM**

11. School Events:

- **Friday, October 11- Professional Development Day**
- **Monday, October 14, 2019- Columbus Day-no school**
- **Wednesday, October 16, 2019- ¾ Grades Field Trip to Browne Center**
- **Wednesday, October 23, 2019- Parent Forum- "It Takes a Village"- Personal Body Safety**

12. Closing Comments:

12.1 Visitors: Nancy Dionne asked that in future meetings the overhead blower be shut off as no one can hear what is being said. Erica Gagnon stated that she thought it would be beneficial to have some students from Marshwood talk about their experiences transitioning to Marshwood and if they would have liked to have done it at the 6th grade level. Tracey Laurion suggested that maybe they could get some opinions written for someone to read because a lot of the students may be uncomfortable talking in front of the public.

12.2 Board Members: Nelson stated that she wanted to thank the entire Withdrawal Committee. She stated that they have put in a lot of time and thought into the decision. She stated that the research they did was good and they wanted to do what is really best for the school district and the Town of Rollinsford.

13. Adjournment: Leach made a motion seconded by Cavanaugh to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Melinda Sullivan
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval