

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 18

SAU 18 School Board Meeting
Paul Smith Elementary – Multi-Purpose Room

May 7, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Toni Dooley called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

School Board

Present: Steve Barton, Harry Graves, Shelly Henry, Karen Grzelak, Karen Hildreth, Toni Dooley, Kathleen Russo, Donna Gilbreth, M. Katharine Fuller, Carlos Cardona, Tracy Goldthwaite

Not Present: Ray Yonaitis

Administration

Jo Ellen Divoll, Amy Cammack, Rebecca Gagnon, Jim Friel, Alice Farris

Others

Parents, Concerned Citizens, Teachers, City Councilors Gerald LeBlanc and Jay Bowers, Citizen Newspaper Katie Ahern, Board Secretary Robyn Keane

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: M. Katherine Fuller moved and Karen Grzelak seconded to accept the minutes of April 2, 2009 as presented

Motion Carried – UNANIMOUS

Public Participation

Chairman Toni Dooley introduced new Hill School board member Karen Hildreth and new Franklin School board member Harry Graves. Mrs. Dooley also recognized SAU School Board Attorney Barbara Loughman.

MOTION: Karen Hildreth moved and Carlos Cardona seconded to move Item #5 on the agenda to Item #1.

Amended Motion: Harry Graves moved and Carlos Cardona seconded to amend the motion to once public participation is finished and move Item # 5 to Item #1 and allow further public participation on the agenda item.

Amended Motion Carried - UNANIMOUS

City Councilor Jay Bowers asked to have his questions answered. Questions will be answered by SAU School Board Lawyer, Barbara Loughman:

RECOGNITIONS

Board member Katharine Fuller recognized Board member Carlos Cardona for being elected head of student government. She also recognized second grade teacher Linda Davidson who is a finalist for teacher of year. Board member Carlos Cardona recognized the high school Debate Club. They will be participating in an international debate. Mr. Cardona also mentioned that board member Katharine Fuller and he have been invited to be part of the Juvenile Task Force for Merrimack County.

Discussion, Superintendent Evaluation and April 2, 2009 Petition.

Attorney Barbara Loughman answered the following questions:

1. NH Law does not prohibit a person from remaining on the board even though he or she has filed lawsuit against the district or the board. NH Law restricts the situations in which someone who has been elected to a board may be removed from the board and the lawsuit is not one of them.
2. Meetings have been posted and are on the website.
3. There is no procedure in the statute for dealing with a complaint from citizens that comes to the school board. Petition does not have a legal standing. The board can deal with the petition any way they wish. In this regard the board has decided to act on it.
4. A technical issue and not a breach of contract. Does not justify termination of contract. The Superintendent has a standard contract and has had a yearly review in September, 2008 through December 2008.
5. The law does not prohibit a board member from being married to a school district employee. The board chair does not participate and does not vote on matters that would directly affect her spouse. That is all the law requires.
6. SAU School Board voted on the initial Superintendent Contract. The Superintendent has a standard contract that automatically renews unless the Superintendent or the school board notifies the other party that they are terminating the contract.
7. Right to Know law does not require anything other than posting in two public places for each district.

Student Alex Palermo asked if the chair can vote for themselves and the answer is: It is the same as voting for public office, you can vote for yourself.

A discussion followed on Robert's Rules and following the rules.

Marty Russo voiced his concerns on the validity of the Superintendent's Contract. A discussion was held in October on review of the Superintendent and evaluation.

A discussion followed as to whether or not the Superintendent's contract was approved.

A discussion of the petition followed with Chairman Toni Dooley acknowledging she verified the signatures on the petition. She stated that some signatures were not legible and signatures were not printed.

Attorney Barbara Loughman explained once the board received the petition in a public meeting the petition becomes a public record. The petition has no legal status and does not have to be addressed. The board does not legally have to verify the signatures.

MOTION: Carlos Cardona moved and Kathleen Russo seconded to go into non-public, RSA 91:3a, II (Personnel) and to allow the public to speak individually to the board at 8:31 PM.

Roll Call – All in Favor

MOTION: Karen Grzelak moved and Carlos Cardona seconded to come out of Non-Public Session at 10:20 PM

Members of the public were allowed to voice their opinions individually to the board.

Motion Carried – UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Kathleen Russo moved and Carlos Cardona seconded that the SAU Board has accepted the petition. It has reviewed the comments and the following action will be taken. The SAU School Board has asked the Superintendent to bring a timeline to the next SAU Meeting for the evaluation to coincide with the Superintendent's contract. All public comments and the petition will be part of this evaluation process.

Motion Carried – 10 in favor – 1 Abstention

MOTION: Donna Gilbreth moved Katharine Fuller seconded that upon election or appointment, incoming board members be provided with a packet of information including administrators and SAU contracts and all current budgets.

Motion Carried – UNANIMOUS

Board member Carlos Cardona asked for clarification of the no smoking ban on school grounds policy.

MOTION: Katharine Fuller moved and Donna Gilbreth seconded to approve authorization for SAU 18 to Serve as Fiscal Agents for grants including authorization of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Business Administrator to sign the OMB Forms.

Amended Motion: Karen Hildreth moved and Carlos Cardona seconded to amend the above motion to have the treasurer added to review and sign OMB Forms as long as it is legal.

A discussion followed with Superintendent Divoll explaining there will be a summary report for the grants placed in the board packet for each month.

Amended Motion Carried – UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Carlos Cardona moved and Karen Grzelak seconded to moving Items 2, 3, and 4 on the original agenda to be discussed at a later date.

Amended Motion: Kathleen Russo moved and Karen Grzelak seconded to add Tuesday, May 26, as a special SAU Meeting and for the Superintendent to bring her timeline at 7:00 PM – place to be determined based on building availability.

Amended Motion Carried – UNANIMOUS

Katharine Fuller announced upcoming meetings:

May 13	6:00 PM	Communication Team is meeting at FHS Cafeteria
May 9	10:00 AM	Parade for Community Day
May 18	6:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
May 18	7:00 PM	Franklin School Board Meeting
May 20	7:00 PM	Special Franklin School Board Meeting regarding the Budget
June 8	6:30 PM	Franklin School Board Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Karen Grzelak, seconded by Carlos Cardona, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM