

## SAU #39 Board

Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Meeting Minutes- Approved 11 19 2021

## Attendees:

Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant Superintendent, Steven Chamberlain- Assistant Superintendent.

Amherst School Board: Chair- Tom Gauthier, Vice Chair- Elizabeth Kuzsma, Secretary- Victoria Parisi, Terri Behm, and Josh Conklin.

Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Vice Chair- Pete Eckhoff, and Stephen O'Keefe.

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Chair- John Glover, Vice Chair- Stephanie Grund, Secretary- Laura Taylor, Steve Coughlan, Christie Peters, and George Torres (Remote)

Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

Public: Tom Bell, Amherst NH, and Catie Dodge, Amherst NH

## I. Call to Order

**Chair of the SAU #39 Board, Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.**

## II. Public Comment I of II

Mr. Tom Bell, Amherst NH, commented on his concerns with a student tracking software on the SHS computers. He is concerned that it is not to parents or students' knowledge.

Ms. Catie Dodge, Amherst NH, noted her concern that there are students in SHS that did not have lesson plans, on the first day. This has been going on for years and this is the first time she has said anything. It is disheartening for students to sit there for 80 minutes with nothing to do. This district is very administrative heavy they are getting less and less teachers.

Mr. O'Keefe asked for further public comment.

There were no additional public comments and the board thanked Mr. Bell and Ms. Dodge.

## III. Annual Report Presentation

Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, discussed that she has worked with administration and building principals looking at multiple different data points at the three school districts. The common theme was the impact of Covid 19. They see this in the achievement results and scores. This is a high-level overview of many different items. They were not able to provide enrollment at the time and will be adding an addendum at a later date.

Mr. O'Keefe thanked the administration for preparing the report. He asked for board questions.

33 Ms. Kuzsma asked if this was a typical amount for parents opting out of NHSAS and if they  
34 were penalized in an.

35 Ms. Landwehrle replied that there was not much of a remote option for NHSAS. Many of the  
36 remote families had to opt out. They felt that it was best the remote had to opt out. This year, she  
37 believes that word got around that they were not required to meet a certain threshold and it  
38 encouraged others to ask to be opted out. In a typical year, the State requires a 95% participation  
39 rate. It does not mean that every district needs to meet that participation rate, but it causes a  
40 problem for them if they do not meet that rate. This year, they plan on explaining the importance  
41 of the meeting that threshold and encourage student participation. A parent is legally able to opt  
42 their student out.

43 Mr. Glover inquired about using a typical year's data.

44 Ms. Landwehrle noted that the data is useful on an individual level.

45 Mr. Gauthier added that their big push for the spring is a new school building and reducing class  
46 sizes. In person was lower and these test results are not where they want them to be. He asked  
47 how can they tell how the in-person students did in smaller class sizes.

48 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they have information in PowerSchool for every single segment.  
49 With NWEA, they did code the students as remote and can look at assessment data.

50 Mr. Gauthier added that it can quantify learning loss and it would be helpful to have those  
51 numbers.

52 Ms. Grund commented that they have done things to improve their scores and yet are not seeing  
53 a step in the right direction. She would like to make sure they are digging deep enough to do the  
54 right thing.

55 Ms. Landwehrle responded that they have been doing well at the high school level. They have  
56 had an upward trend in Math over the past few years and want to look at three years of data.  
57 They have had less instructional time last year than previous years and that had an impact. It is  
58 not a simple answer, and there are so many things.

59 Ms. Grund commented that this year SHS went to an 8-period schedule. Plus, they need to  
60 consider that they have one of the shortest amounts of instructional time in the state.

61 Mr. Chamberlin noted that they value instructional time.

62 Ms. Taylor asked about the OECD PISA questions.

63 Ms. Landwehrle explained that families were able to review those questions upon registration  
64 and they were not the district's questions. They look at the socioeconomic status of your student  
65 population. It is an opt in to take the assessment during registration.

66 Ms. Taylor inquired about the number of students.

67 Ms. Landwehrle noted that not all parents have filled out the registration. 80 students are pulled  
68 randomly from 15-year-old students. They will be sending information when that test date is.  
69 Any family that wants to review the questions can as they are on the SAU website.

70 Ms. Parisi commented that she is having a hard time looking at the Amherst vs the Mont Vernon  
71 test scores. The Mont Vernon test scores have been more of a success story, and it is time to  
72 acknowledge that. Too often they get these graphs and excuse their problems. She is alarmed by  
73 the graph on page 13. She asked if this the national average for last year.

74 Ms. Landwehrle replied that these are based on the NWEA norms, from their internationally  
75 normed test population for achievement and growth. These are norms from early 2019, for a  
76 typical school year from fall to fall.

77 She added that it will be interesting to see this fall, she would anticipate results this fall better  
78 than last fall.

79 Ms. Parisi asked if there is more of a focus on individual growth.

80 Ms. Landwehrle replied that page 12 is looking at the academic achievements, they are fairly  
81 high, not as high as they typically see. The alarming picture is the growth.

82 Ms. Parisi asked if they are focusing on academic growth.

83 Ms. Landwehrle replied, yes, that their goal is at least a year's worth of growth. They are setting  
84 up meetings with building leadership right after NWEA to go over the results. It is alarming and  
85 concerning. They have to find that right balance with supports so that they are making progress.

86 Ms. O'Keefe noted that there were some questions that he received.

87 Ms. Landwehrle replied they do not know when they will receive that State comparative data. It  
88 is hard to predict as it is not always a set time. There was a question about that remote option for  
89 NHSAS was not available. All of their districts were affected by the opt-out. Souhegan had 50%  
90 opt out in NHSAS Science.

91 With the difference in Mont Vernon and Amherst, they already had smaller class sizes. Twelve is  
92 really small class size, and it is great to provide that one-on-one support. Second, they did a deep  
93 focus on Math. The Board focused their Board Goals on Math. To get the kids, school wide,  
94 excited, and focused on Math.

95 Ms. Landwehrle noted that there is a question on page 25 about the chart and who is included in  
96 the numbers.

97 Mr. Chamberlin replied that the most common institutions those are in the last few years.

98 Ms. Landwehrle noted that they can check with Student Services Director, Ms. Meg Beauchamp  
99 and get back to the board. National Junior Honor Society is not necessarily a club, but they can  
100 include that going forward. Many of the sports that ran last year were sports that could be  
101 outside. With a lot of the clubs, there was an emphasis on the time it took to get the building  
102 thoroughly sanitized.

- 103 Mr. Conklin inquired about growth and if it was normed.
- 104 Ms. Landwehrle replied yes, it is normed based on your starting point. You are not harmed if you  
105 start high. It truly is what is typical with that grade level and how much do they typically grow.
- 106 Ms. Grund questioned if they could have the breakdown by grade level for NHSAS. With the  
107 NHSAS Science for SHS, 45% of the kids that took the test did not meet grade level.
- 108 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they are finding that right balance and there will be a plan to review  
109 the results.
- 110 Mr. Glover added that it is a really good start. Aimsweb and OECD PISA are not discussed. He  
111 suggested that they offer resources to students to supplement their own learning.
- 112 Ms. Landwehrle noted that these are all great comments.
- 113 Ms. Taylor inquired about the AP results. She noted that last year she requested the results to be  
114 presented differently.
- 115 Ms. Parisi suggested that they include the schools that they are comparing themselves to.
- 116 Mr. O’Keefe commented that in MV they tried to have afterschool activities and have paid  
117 stipends for that.
- 118 Ms. Taylor added that she would like to see test prep for all of the students.
- 119 Ms. Parisi remarked that she would like to see something regarding social/ emotional learning  
120 included in this document.
- 121 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle and Mr. Chamberlin.
- 122 IV. First Reading Policies
- 123 Mr. O’Keefe noted that tonight is a first reading. They will motion to pass the policies that they  
124 have consensus. Those policies will go down to the subsequent boards. The policies that they do  
125 not have consensus they will review individually.
- 126 He thanked the Policy Committee for their continued work
- 127 1. BBBH (SAU)
- 128 **Mr. Coughlan motioned to pass BBBH. Ms. Kuzsma seconded.**
- 129 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.
- 130 **Mr. Coughlan amended section J to the following: A. Chairperson, B. Vice chairperson, C.**  
131 **Treasurer, and strike “ (appointed from among board members)” and add D. Secretary.**  
132 **Ms. Kuzsma seconded the motion.**
- 133 **Mr. O’Keefe asked for a vote on the motion to amend. Ms. Taylor opposed; motion passed.**
- 134 **Mr. O’Keefe asked for a vote on BBBH as amended.**

135 **The Motion passed.**

136 Discussion ensued over the packet.

137 Mr. O'Keefe read BBBA, BBBC, BK, EBB, JCA, JFAB, JI, JIC, JICD, JLCF, JLCH, JLCJ, KH  
138 (Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan)

139 No objections to the following: BBBA, BBBC, BK, JCA, JFAB, JI, JLCF, JLCH, (Amherst,  
140 Mont Vernon, and Souhegan)

141 Policies objected BBBA, EBB, JI, JIC, JICD, JLCF, JLCJ, and KH

142 Mr. O'Keefe read BA/BA-R, BAAA, BBA, BBAA, BBAB/BDB, BCA, BCB, BDA, BDC,  
143 BDD, BDE, BDG, BEA, BEB, BEC, BEDA, BEDB, BEDC, BEDDA, BEDG, BEDH, BFE,  
144 BGAA, BGD, BGF, BHC, BHE, BIE, DID, EB, EHAC, GBCD, GBCE, GBEB, GBEBE, GCR,  
145 KFA, KICL (SAU, Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan)

146 Policies objected: BAAA, BCB, BDA, BDD, BDG, BEA, BEDB, BEDDA, BGAA, BGD, BGF,  
147 BHC, EHAC, GBCD, GBEB, GBEBE, KICL.

148 Policies pulled BBAB/BDB, BDD- first page missing, BDF - was in packet but not on agenda -  
149 hold until next meeting, BEDH,

150 Mr. Coughlan added that BIA & DFA was new this year.

151 **Mr. Glover motioned to approve, adopt, and move to the individual boards the following**  
152 **policies: BBBC, BK, JCA, JFAB, JLCH, BA/BA-R, BBA, BBAA, BDC, BDE, BEB, BEC,**  
153 **BEDC, BEDG, BFE, BHE, BIE, DID, EB, GBCE, GCR, and KFA. Mr. Coughlan seconded**  
154 **the motion.**

155 Ms. Kuzsma added that BBBA back to the Policy Committee.

156 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to send policy EBB to the individual boards. Ms. Parisi seconded**  
157 **the motion.**

158 Mr. O'Keefe asked for discussion.

159 Ms. Taylor asked for clarification on Policy EBB.

160 Ms. Kuzsma noted that the NHSBA updated it.

161 Mr. Glover added that the one thing that is missing is infectious disease control.

162 Mr. O'Keefe called for a vote to accept Policy EBB.

163 **Motion fails. Policy goes back to the Policy Committee.**

164 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy JI and move to the individual boards as a first**  
165 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

166 Mr. O'Keefe asked for discussion.

167 Ms. Taylor noted that this policy refers to rights and responsibilities of students. she would like  
168 to see more definition of the rights and responsibilities

169 Discussion ensued.

170 **Mr. O’Keefe called for a vote. Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Peters opposed. Motion passed.**

171 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy JIC and move to the individual boards as a first**  
172 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

173 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

174 Ms. Taylor noted that she was at the meeting when they discussed the policy. She commented on  
175 the Code of Conduct.

176 Ms. Landwehrle noted that they have never used the term Code of Conduct before. It was her  
177 recommendation to simplify.

178 Ms. Taylor remarked that the Code of Conduct falls under some student groups, and they need to  
179 have deeper discussion at the high school.

180 Ms. Behm added that it is consistent and there are additional layers, but this is a great start.

181 Ms. Clark asked if it was possible for the high school to make their own changes.

182 Mr. O’Keefe explained that the intent of tonight’s discussion was to be on the same page.

183 Ms. Landwehrle noted in some cases they add “if where applicable Community Council”.

184 **Mr. Glover motioned to add “shall” to add a number #5. Ms. Parisi seconded.**

185 Mr. Coughlan added that he is fine with leaving the policy the way it is.

186 Ms. Landwehrle commented that she updates the administration with what needs to be in the  
187 handbook.

188 Ms. Kuzsma the heading of this policy relates to student conduct.

189 Mr. Glover noted that these are closely related topics there is correlation between the two.

190 Ms. Lawrence added that she agrees with Mr. Glover. It is an opportunity to correct that and  
191 make sure it is really clear.

192 **Mr. O’Keefe called for a motion to amend policy JIC. The motion was unanimous, motion**  
193 **passed.**

194 **Mr. O’Keefe called for a vote on the policy as amended. Ms. Taylor opposed; motion**  
195 **passed.**

196 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy JICD and move to the individual boards as a first**  
197 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

198

199 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion

200 Ms. Taylor noted that she is looking to align the system with these policies.

201 Ms. Lawrence asked Ms. Taylor where there are inconsistencies. She asked Ms. Taylor to review  
202 the Trello where they made their notes.

203 Ms. Landwehrle added that the high school team did have ample time as well as the rest of the  
204 leadership team to review.

205 Ms. Kuzsma noted that this policy was brought up because there were significant changes at the  
206 State. Community Council could not change anything required by the State no matter what.

207 Ms. Landwehrle commented that a lot of this is referencing the terms and student rights and  
208 responsibilities. There were some changes with this policy, and she does not see a conflict.

209 Mr. Coughlan added that he did a review and does not see conflict with SHS current procedures.

210 Ms. Grund asked about letter (e) and why would you have a subcommittee on issues like this, on  
211 page 75.

212 Mr. Coughlan replied first, there is a timeline on some of these issues and sometimes it is hard  
213 to get a full board together or second, recusal problems.

214 Ms. Peters commented that it would be nice to see the OSS pilot referenced.

215 Mr. Glover added that at the last meeting they have a new disciplinary pilot and discussion about  
216 how do they implement restorative justice principles.

217 Ms. Landwehrle replied, yes.

218 Mr. Coughlan referenced the paragraph above.

219 Ms. Landwehrle added that it is still out of school suspension, they would craft the parameters.  
220 You are removed from the building but not removed from the connection to their community.

221 Ms. Peters inquired about students committing a serious offense.

222 Discussion ensued.

223 Superintendent Steel referenced NH Chapter 193- Pupils- School Attendance- Section 193:13 II  
224 Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils. *“Any pupil may be expelled from school by the local school  
225 board for gross misconduct, or for neglect or refusal to conform to the reasonable rules of the  
226 school, or for an act of theft, destruction, or violence as defined in RSA 193-D:1, or for  
227 possession of a pellet or BB gun, rifle, or paint ball gun, and the pupil shall not attend school  
228 until restored by the local board. Any expulsion shall be subject to review if requested prior to  
229 the start of each school year and further, any parent or guardian has the right to appeal any  
230 such expulsion by the local board to the state board of education. Any expulsion shall be valid  
231 throughout the school districts of the state.”*

232 Mr. Glover asked about Factors to Consider.

- 233 Mr. Coughlan noted that legal counsel cut and pasted from the law.
- 234 Mr. Steel commented that the RSA 193:13 is effective until July 1, 2021; the revision has the  
235 exact same process V. *“School districts and chartered public schools shall make educational*  
236 *assignments available to the suspended pupil during periods of suspension.”*
- 237 **Ms. Kuzsma amended policy JICD B, 7, #5 remove paragraph and have it state “under**  
238 **193:13 V.” Ms. Parisi seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous, motion passed.**
- 239 Mr. Glover noted the scrivener’s error.
- 240 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to adopt JICD as written and amended. Ms. Parisi seconded the**  
241 **motion. 2 opposed. Motion passed.**
- 242 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy JLCF and move to the individual boards as a first**  
243 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**
- 244 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.
- 245 Ms. Taylor inquired about the statement “each school in the district will provide at least one  
246 district-wide farm to table family dinner or similar activity each school year”.
- 247 Ms. Kuzsma noted that Mr. John Lash had wrote this in and will be implanting this year. They  
248 have to have one measurable data point.
- 249 Ms. Taylor commented that it would a large number of families and a great undertaking.
- 250 Ms. Landwehrle added that this would be combined with some other event as a play and families  
251 would need to sign up ahead of time. There could be significant interest, and this is the first year  
252 of rolling this out. Mr. Lash felt strongly in this event.
- 253 Ms. Taylor asked if they would be impacting the budget.
- 254 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they would not be impacting the budget.
- 255 Ms. Behm gave her support.
- 256 **Mr. O’Keefe asked for a roll call. The Motion passed unanimous.**
- 257 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy JLCJ and move to the individual boards as a first**  
258 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**
- 259 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.
- 260 Ms. Taylor noted that she has a question about the recording process and if it is required by law.
- 261 Mr. Coughlan responded that this is not required by law, and this is his language.
- 262 Ms. Taylor noted that they have not received these reports.
- 263 Mr. O’Keefe called for a vote.
- 264 **The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**



265 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy KH and move to the individual boards as a first**  
 266 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

267 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

268 Ms. Taylor asked if this was new and for examples for what it would and would not include.

269 Mr. Steel replied that it is not new, he used the SHS school yearbook as an example.

270 Mr. Coughlan added that they have been doing this for a while.

271 Ms. Taylor asked where does the revenue for the extra pages in the yearbook that the parents pay  
 272 for.

273 Mr. Steel replied that he believes that it is a fundraiser for the school.

274 Mr. O’Keefe called for a vote.

275 **The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

276 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BAAA and move to the individual boards as a**  
 277 **first reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

278 Ms. Taylor noted that there is reference to the student handbook which is partially under  
 279 Community Council for the high school.

280 Ms. Kuzsma replied that it is covered as part of the procedural aspect.

281 Ms. Grund added that there is a piece in there that she has an issue with.

282 Ms. Lawrence remarked that the policy in 2007 has almost identical language.

283 Mr. Steel added that there is nothing that is preventing you from making a board policy.

284 Mr. O’Keefe called for a vote.

285 **Ms. Taylor opposed; motion passed.**

286 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BCA and move to the individual boards as a first**  
 287 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

288 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

289 Ms. Grund commented on “ 7. Recognize that as a general principle the District benefits when  
 290 Board decisions, which have been made following due consideration and vote of a quorum,  
 291 receive the subsequent support of the whole Board, whenever practicable.”.

292 She added that it sounds like there is pressure to vote in the same way.

293 Mr. O’Keefe added that he also does not believe that should be in there.

294 Mr. Steel commented that “subsequent” indicates that this is not referring to votes. He believes  
 295 that was the intent.

296 Mr. Conklin noted that this policy is the aspirational goals. This policy cannot control them in  
297 anyway.

298 Ms. Lawrence added that it was in the sample.

299 Ms. Parisi referenced the previous version of this policy. *"Recognize that final board actions will  
300 be supported by all members of the board. Take no private action that will compromise the  
301 board or administration; and refrain from private actions which undermine or compromise  
302 official board action."*

303 Mr. Glover noted that he was not in support.

304 **Ms. Parisi motioned to amended amend #7 to be #11 from previous policy. "Recognize that**  
305 **final board actions will be supported by all members of the board. Take no private action that**  
306 **will compromise the board or administration; and refrain from private actions which**  
307 **undermine or compromise official board action." Mr. Grondstra seconded the motion.**

308 Ms. Behm remarked that this language is clearer and supports the amendment.

309 Ms. Taylor added that she would like to use the example of the start time, she was not in support.

310 Mr. O'Keefe called for a vote.

311 **Mr. Glover opposed; motion passed.**

312 Mr. O'Keefe asked for discussion on the amended policy.

313 There was no further discussion.

314 Mr. O'Keefe called for a vote.

315 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

316 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BDA and move to the individual boards as a first**  
317 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

318 Ms. Grund added that she has her concern regarding *"1. The Board shall hold an organizational  
319 meeting within one month of the School District Meeting."*

320 Mr. Coughlan added that the dates are from law.

321 Ms. Taylor asked about *"6. The assignment of board members to committees may also be made  
322 at the organizational meeting, or at any subsequent meeting."*

323 Mr. Coughlan commented that most board assignments are non-controversial.

324 Ms. Taylor mentioned that she would like to add an additional sentence to #6 *"Board member  
325 committee assignments should be voted on by the majority of the board."*

326 Mr. O'Keefe asked if that was her amendment.

327 Mr. Glover added that it doesn't not say that.

- 328 Ms. Kuzsma noted that language would contradict the other two policies.
- 329 Mr. O’Keefe asked Ms. Taylor if she wanted to amend the policy.
- 330 Ms. Taylor did not amend the policy.
- 331 Mr. O’Keefe asked for a vote.
- 332 **Ms. Taylor opposed. The motion passed.**
- 333 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to reconsider policy BCB. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion. The**
- 334 **vote was unanimous, motion passed.**
- 335 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BCB and move to the individual boards as a first**
- 336 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**
- 337 Ms. Taylor inquired about the difference.
- 338 Ms. Kuzsma replied it clears up conflict of interest and vendor relations.
- 339 Ms. Peters added that she is not sure that she has the same perspective.
- 340 Ms. Kuzsma commented on the vendor expectations.
- 341 Ms. Behm mentioned that she prefers the revised policy with the added sentence “*Through the*
- 342 *use of open competitive bidding or recusal of any Board member who has a conflict of interest,*
- 343 *the Board will seek to obtain the best value for the district while avoiding impropriety or the*
- 344 *appearance of impropriety*”. It is just laying out ground rules and giving an even playing field.
- 345 Mr. Glover referenced RSA 95:1.
- 346 Ms. Peters replied that she has a concern with the employment clause.
- 347 Ms. Taylor mentioned that she has serious problems with this. She supports the old policy. They
- 348 should not be employing board members or relatives.
- 349 Mr. O’Keefe inquired where this policy originated.
- 350 Ms. Kuzsma replied that this is a model, and they made no changes.
- 351 Ms. Taylor asked if we have had legal review of even one of the policies we are reviewing
- 352 tonight for our District.
- 353 Ms. Kuzsma said only a couple policies have been reviewed by District counsel, which aren’t in
- 354 the packet tonight. I feel uncomfortable spending money on legal fees.
- 355 Ms. Taylor asked if they had their own counsel.
- 356 Ms. Kuzsma added that she feels uncomfortable spending a significant amount of money having
- 357 them reviewed when they were crafted by legal counsel.
- 358 Ms. Taylor noted that the sample wasn’t crafted for our board or districts.

359 Mr. O’Keefe asked about the general consensus of the committee.

360 Ms. Kuzsma replied that the general consensus was that they liked the sample policy better and  
361 made the rules extremely clear.

362 Mr. Coughlan added that they agreed that this one was clearer.

363 Mr. Torres mentioned that he is concerned with the optics of it.

364 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to vote the policy down and send this back to the policy committee.**  
365 **(Revise to be more restrictive in nepotism and goods and services.)**

366 Mr. Glover suggested it go back to legal counsel.

367 Ms. Grund added that it just needs to be rewritten.

368 Mr. Coughlan added that there have been two separate discussions, nepotism and conflict of  
369 goods and services. He suggested that they have a straw poll.

370 **All opposed, motion fails.**

371 Mr. O’Keefe asked about a nepotism policy.

372 Mr. Coughlan commented on the most legally restricted Nepotism policy.

373 Mr. O’Keefe asked for a straw poll.

374 Mr. Coughlan noted that the board was in favor of the most restrictive in both categories,  
375 nepotism and goods and services.

376 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BDG and move to the individual boards as a first**  
377 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

378 Mr. Coughlan commented that they tried to differentiate between the routine and non-routine.

379 Mr. Steel gave two examples of non-routine action.

380 Ms. Taylor asked if it would be possible to write an amount in the policy.

381 Mr. O’Keefe added that if it exceeds those limits, he will want to get clarification.

382 **Mr. Glover and Ms. Taylor opposed; motion passed.**

383 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BEA and move to the individual boards as a first**  
384 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

385 Ms. Taylor commented that she would like more Souhegan meetings.

386 Mr. Conklin added that the additional meetings may be scheduled by the Chair. It is not just for  
387 emergency meetings.

388 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

389 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

390 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BEB and move to the individual boards as a first**  
391 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

392 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

393 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

394 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BEDB and move to the individual boards as a first**  
395 **reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

396 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

397 **Ms. Grund amended Policy BEDB, paragraph 6, second sentence, to replace**  
398 **“Superintendent” with “Board Chair”. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

399 Ms. Kuzsma added for the SAU it would be Chairman O’Keefe.

400 Ms. Behm noted that agenda would be associated with the respective Chair.

401 Mr. O’Keefe called for a vote.

402 **All in favor of the amendment, motion passed.**

403 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

404 Ms. Taylor mentioned that the agenda content should be the responsibility of the board.

405 It also says that it should be 14 days prior to a meeting.

406 Mr. O’Keefe replied that he believes that it is reasonable since there needs to be discussion on  
407 items.

408 Ms. Taylor commented that she thought another policy stated 4 days.

409 Mr. O’Keefe inquired which policy she was referencing.

410 Mr. Glover added that they have revised agenda packets because things are dynamic.

411 Ms. Peters referenced the policy statement “*Members of the public who wish to speak at Board*  
412 *meetings regarding an agenda item are encouraged to contact the Superintendent prior to the*  
413 *Board meeting.*” She asked if they are encouraging members of the public to reach out to the  
414 Superintendent about their meeting topics.

415 Mr. O’Keefe replied yes. The community is always able to reach out to him for a question or  
416 concern.

417 Ms. Peters asked if that is different than Public Comment.

418 Mr. Steel noted that he gets contacted often by the community. He is sometimes able to solve a  
419 question or problem.

420 Ms. Taylor referenced statement “*Additionally, the Board reserves the right to limit public*  
421 *discussion at Board meetings to agenda items only.*” She inquired if that is that there so you can  
422 tell them to stop.

423 Mr. O’Keefe noted that he just attended a training, and they are doing what is recommended. As  
424 a board they can vote to do that.

425 Ms. Kuzsma mentioned a recent example.

426 Mr. O’Keefe added that the public needs to be informed about the guidelines.

427 Mr. Coughlan explained that the intention is that this is the meeting for the board to do work and  
428 the public can watch. The basic fundamental rule is that board is here to do work and the public  
429 input is purely the board’s discretion.

430 Mr. Glover gave his support for statement “ *Every Board member has the right to place items on*  
431 *the agenda*” however, there needs to be some tempering language.

432 **Ms. Kuzsma amended policy BEDB, second paragraph, second sentence. “Every board**  
433 **member has the right to place items, on an agenda” . Mr. Glover seconded the motion.**

434 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

435 Ms. Peters commented on a possible situation where a board member is at odds with the board  
436 chair.

437 Ms. Kuzsma noted that there is policy around that. The majority of a board can get together and  
438 put it on an agenda.

439 Mr. O’Keefe called for a vote on the amendment.

440 **Motion did not pass.**

441 **Mr. O’Keefe asked for a vote on policy BEDB as originally amended.**

442 **Motion passes unanimous**

443 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BEDDA and move to the individual boards as a**  
444 **first reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

445 Ms. Taylor noted that this is unpolished and needs review.

446 Mr. O’Keefe added that there is a scrivener’s error.

447 Ms. Taylor noted that she would like the table to be explained to her.

448 Mr. Coughlan remarked that originally, he thought about moving the table. Most of this comes  
449 out of Robert’s Rules of Order.

450 Mr. O’Keefe called for a vote on the policy.

451 Mr. Glover mentioned the scrivener's error in B-3 in the italicized brackets, B-13 the double  
452 asterisk and double numbering.

453 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

454 **Ms. Lawrence motioned to accept policy BGAA and move to the individual boards as a**  
455 **first reading. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

456 Ms. Taylor added, I think Board members should have more say in what is discussed at the SAU  
457 Policy Committee meetings than permitted in (b). Board members should be able to participate  
458 in the conversations resulting in policy drafting in order to perform the duties they were elected  
459 to do.

460 Concerned that the drafting of policies are not going thru legal review. The work of the policy  
461 committee is not necessarily the work of the board. For example, the high school has a different  
462 age group than the policy committee members elected to oversee elementary schools.

463 This is fundamental issue that as a Board we have to decide if we are going to perform the role  
464 we were elected to do. I don't think we can take the power and duties that we were elected for  
465 and hand it over to a committee that wasn't elected for that purpose.

466 I believe that a Board Chair or Board Member should be reaching out to the NHSBA or Board  
467 attorney to give directives which craft Board policy. NHSBA should be focusing on Board  
468 Member's perspectives.

469 Ms. Taylor said she viewed the concerns as being more than philosophical. She asked if any  
470 legal review had been made of the policy BGAA, as written.

471 Mr. Coughlan said no legal review had been done.

472 Ms. Taylor noted her concerns with the policy.

473 Mr. Coughlan added that this is based on the new model from the NHSBA. He believes that most  
474 of her concerns are philosophical.

475 Ms. Taylor noted two examples and they had to do with student staff interaction, and they were  
476 both relevant to the high school.

477 Ms. Kuzsma replied that it is not completely accurate. Ms. Lawrence is working on it and that  
478 policy is 100% on their docket for review.

479 Ms. Grund noted that it brings up the clarification about d-6 they need to work on the language  
480 of sept, 1<sup>st</sup>.

481 Ms. Taylor noted the policy had changed the NHSBA draft policy from a District's policy  
482 committee to an SAU 39 Policy Committee, which could have a different legal meaning. I would  
483 like to see a written review of counsel.

484 I understand the purpose and benefit of the SAU Policy Committee. However, the District  
485 Boards should not be empowering the SAU policy committee. The SAU policy committee is

486 about making recommendations and presenting draft policies to boards not making the actual  
487 decisions (a duty of Boards).

488 Mr. Coughlan added that he believes that it is based on the policy.

489 Ms. Kuzsma commented on the timeframe.

490 Mr. Steel remarked that he proposed something sooner and Mr. Glover when he was on the  
491 Amherst School Board proposed Sept 1<sup>st</sup> as the deadline.

492 Mr. Glover commented that the Superintendent does a lot and it's all in the purview of the  
493 superintendent.

494 Ms. Lawrence added that the Chair has reached out to the NHSBA, and that relationship exists. It  
495 has not been an issue.

496 Ms. Taylor added that it is a conflict of interest.

497 **Ms. Taylor motioned to amend BGAA, D4 changed to "the Board Chair should seek**  
498 **counsel" Ms. Parisi seconded the motion.**

499 Ms. Clark added that it feels like an inefficient amendment.

500 Ms. Peters inquired what if they used "or".

501 Mr. Glover did not give his support.

502 Mr. Conklin commented that there are some board members that are well versed and some that  
503 are not.

504 Ms. Behm added that she understands the concern, but it is already covered.

505 Mr. O'Keefe called for a vote.

506 **Amendment did not pass. Ms. Peters abstained.**

507 **Mr. O'Keefe called for vote on Policy as written, BGAA. Ms. Taylor and Ms. Peters**  
508 **opposed.**

509 **Mr. Lawrence motioned to defer the remaining policies to the next SAU meeting in**  
510 **October. Ms. Parisi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

511 Mr. O'Keefe commented that they should submit the objections to the policy. They should  
512 restrict debate to the items that are listed in writing to the Policy Committee. They want to be  
513 prepared.

514 V. Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3 II

515 Members Present: Stephen O'Keefe, Kristen Clark, Sarah Lawrence, Peter Eckhoff, Jessica  
516 Hinckley – Not present, Pim Grondstra, Steve Coughlan, John Glover, Stephanie Grund,  
517 Christine Peters, Laura Taylor, George Torres, Elizabeth Kuzsma, Terri Behm, Joshua Conklin,  
518 Tom Gauthier – Not present, Victoria Parisi



519 **Ms. Kuzsma motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91 A:3 II (a) and (c) at**  
 520 **10:10PM. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

521 **Mr. O’Keefe called a roll call: Stephen O’Keefe – Yes, Kristen Clark – Yes, Sarah**  
 522 **Lawrence – Yes, Peter Eckhoff – Yes, Jessica Hinckley – Not present, Pim Grondstra –**  
 523 **Yes, Steve Coughlan – Yes, John Glover – Yes, Stephanie Grund – Yes, Christine Peters –**  
 524 **Yes, Laura Taylor – Yes, George Torres – Yes, Elizabeth Kuzsma – Yes, Terri Behm – Yes,**  
 525 **Joshua Conklin – Yes, Tom Gauthier – Not present and Victoria Parisi - Yes**

526 Other persons present during nonpublic session: None.

527 Description of matters discussed, and final decisions made. Note: Any votes taken must be  
 528 recorded “in such a manner that the vote of each member is ascertained and recorded”:

529 Board discussed Superintendent Evaluation and gave the SAU Board Chair points to discuss  
 530 with the Superintendent when he meets to discuss the evaluations.

531 VI. Public Session

532 **Ms. Kuzsma motioned to exit non- public session at 10:39PM, seconded by Mr. Coughlan.**  
 533 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

534 No motion needed to seal the minutes.

535 VII. Meeting Adjourned

536 **Ms. Kuzsma motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Coughlan seconded the motion. The**  
 537 **vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

538 **Roll Call Vote to end public meeting: Stephen O’Keefe – Yes, Kristen Clark – Yes, Sarah**  
 539 **Lawrence – Yes, Peter Eckhoff – Yes, Jessica Hinckley – Not Present, Pim Grondstra –**  
 540 **Yes, Steve Coughlan – Yes, John Glover – Yes, Stephanie Grund – Yes, Christine Peters –**  
 541 **Yes, Laura Taylor – Yes, George Torres – Yes, Elizabeth Kuzsma – Yes, Terri Behm – Yes,**  
 542 **Joshua Conklin – Yes, Tom Gauthier – Not Present and Victoria Parisi - Yes**

543