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## Meeting Minutes from 11/14/2023

4 messages

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**Matt Comstock** <mcomstock@sau39.org> Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 1:26 PM  
To: Caleb Baird <cbaird@sau39.org>, Caitlin Thompson <cthompson1@sau39.org>, Chris Goodrich <cgoodrich@sau39.org>, Matt Borden <mborden@sau39.org>, Brian Coogan <bcoogan@sau39.org>, Peter Maresco <pmaresco@sau39.org>, Brittany Donovan <bdonovan@sau39.org>  
Cc: Ellen Grudzien <egrudzien@sau39.org>

Hi All,

Please find the draft meeting minutes from yesterdays meeting attached. Feel free to send me any corrections that you think need to occur and we can vote on the changes at the next meeting.

I have sent them to Chelsea Borden as well to post to the W&M section of the SAU 39 website.

Thanks,  
Matt Comstock

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 **DRAFT - ASD Ways And Means Meeting Minutes 11.14.2023.pdf**  
194K

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**Ellen Grudzien** <egrudzien@sau39.org> Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 11:27 AM  
To: Matt Comstock <mcomstock@sau39.org>  
Cc: Caleb Baird <cbaird@sau39.org>, Caitlin Thompson <cthompson1@sau39.org>, Chris Goodrich <cgoodrich@sau39.org>, Matt Borden <mborden@sau39.org>, Brian Coogan <bcoogan@sau39.org>, Peter Maresco <pmaresco@sau39.org>, Brittany Donovan <bdonovan@sau39.org>

Thanks Matt,  
Just a reminder, unless illness is a factor, attendance at these meetings is very important for the timeline of the process.

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*Ellen L. Grudzien*  
*Amherst School District Moderator*

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**Peter Maresco** <pmaresco@sau39.org> Sat, Nov 18, 2023 at 4:13 PM  
To: Matt Comstock <mcomstock@sau39.org>  
Cc: Caleb Baird <cbaird@sau39.org>, Caitlin Thompson <cthompson1@sau39.org>, Chris Goodrich <cgoodrich@sau39.org>, Matt Borden <mborden@sau39.org>, Brian Coogan <bcoogan@sau39.org>, Brittany Donovan <bdonovan@sau39.org>, Ellen Grudzien <egrudzien@sau39.org>

Hi Everyone, I would like to again apologize for missing the last meeting due to a schedule conflict. I have enclosed a copy of my summary of the AMS Admin meeting if you would like to add it to the minutes. I also saw that there was a note about having a Ways and Means member on the budget committee. I volunteered to be part of that and I attended the first budget committee meeting on November 7. The basic takeaway from that was that salaries and health care costs account for most of the overall budget increase.

I did also attend the Amherst school board meeting where the next draft of the budget was presented. I believe that Caitlin will be sending out a summary of that meeting but I just wanted to say that I observed a few things there that concerned me and would like to discuss at our next meeting. Also, the meeting that night was attended by a large contingent of teachers who were concerned about the board considering taking full responsibility for the right to waive up to 5 snow days. This became a very divisive issue with the teachers' representative at one point threatening legal action. Since there was much talk about the contractual wording being unclear and no one knowing the original intent, I felt the need to speak up. During

the last public comment period I spoke and clearly stated that I was not representing the Ways and Means committee but was speaking up as a former board member who was on the board when the hours based scheduling was put in place. My goal was for everyone to understand that what is currently in place works well and to realize that there should not be any legal battles over the future enforcement of these rules.

Pete

On Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 1:27 PM Matt Comstock <mcomstock@sau39.org> wrote:

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**Peter Maresco** <pmaresco@sau39.org>

Wed, Nov 22, 2023 at 6:28 PM

To: Matt Comstock <mcomstock@sau39.org>

Cc: Caleb Baird <cbaird@sau39.org>, Caitlin Thompson <cthompson1@sau39.org>, Chris Goodrich <cgoodrich@sau39.org>, Matt Borden <mborden@sau39.org>, Brian Coogan <bcoogan@sau39.org>, Brittany Donovan <bdonovan@sau39.org>, Ellen Grudzien <egrudzien@sau39.org>

Hi Again Everyone,

I attended the SAU Budget committee meeting last night and it brought up another question in my mind. Using the zero-based budgeting approach, the SAU budget increase for this year is 1.4%. The meeting was also attended by Howard Brown, a representative of the Souhegan School Board. He mentioned that the Souhegan budget is also increasing by only 1.4% this year. Upon hearing those numbers, I immediately thought of the Amherst budget, which is the largest of the three, going up at a percentage rate three times higher than the other two budgets. To me, that seems like a non-starter with the voters which made me wonder how much this administrative restructuring is costing and whether or not now was the right time to pursue it, especially if a warrant article for a new school will again be proposed. Again, maybe we can talk about this at our next meeting.

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

Pete

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