

## 1 SAU #39 Board Meeting

2 Monday, June 1st, 2020

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 08 27 2020  
45  
6 Attendees:7 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent Christine Landwehrle- Assistant  
8 Superintendent, Michele Croteau- SAU #39 Business Administrator, John Schuttinger-  
9 Principal of MVVS, Anna Parrill- Principal of C/W, Bethany Bernasconi- Principal of AMS,  
10 and Bill Hagen- Principal of SHS.11 Amherst School Board: Elizabeth Kuzsma- Chair, Tom Gauthier- Vice Chair, Ellen Gruzdien-  
12 Secretary, Terri Behm and Josh Conklin.13 Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Pim Grondstra- Chair, Amy Facey- Vice Chair, Stephanie  
14 Grund- Secretary, Steve Coughlan, George Torres, Laura Taylor and David Chen.15 Mont Vernon School Board: Sarah Lawrence- Chair, Peter Eckhoff- Vice Chair, Scott St.  
16 Denis- Secretary, and Stephen O'Keefe.

17 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

18 Public: Marilyn Gibson, 166 Mack Hill Road, Amherst NH, Kelly Schmidt, 11 Patricia Lane,  
19 Amherst NH, John D'Angelo, Amherst Selectmen Representative, and Courtney Vore, Amherst  
20 NH.

## 21 I. Call to Order

22 **Chair of the SAU #39 Board, Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, called the meeting to order at**  
23 **6:04PM.**24 He then reminded the Board to refrain from chatting to each other through the chat feature of  
25 Zoom. He suggested the Board members to raise their hands if they have a question or  
26 comment.

## 27 II. Individual Board Updates

28 Chair of the Souhegan Cooperative School Board, Mr. Pim Grondstra, noted that they had two  
29 meetings this past month on May 11<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. He will run through the topics and if anyone  
30 has any questions please ask him tonight or at [pgrondstra@sprise.com](mailto:pgrondstra@sprise.com).31 First, they discussed the UFB and priority of projects. They also discussed Remote Learning  
32 and if it was successful, with the possibility of sending out a survey to parents and students. At  
33 the last meeting, Community Council gave a presentation clarifying their roles. One of the  
34 positive things that came out of it was to develop a calendar of topics that are coming up, that  
35 way they are working together. They did talk about the Strategic Vision and will devote a full  
36 meeting this summer to where they are and where they want to go with it. They also spoke with

37 Science Teachers regarding upgrading the Science Labs and possibly using the UFB and other  
38 sources for renovation. Lastly, they discussed the end of they year activities.

39 The Board thanked Mr. Grondstra.

40 Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, noted at their last meeting they  
41 also discussed their Unassigned Fund Balance. They also discussed summer facility projects,  
42 got an update about the curriculum coordinators, spoke with the MVVS World Language  
43 Teacher and discussed end of year celebrations. Overall, it was a great meeting.

44 The Board thanked Ms. Lawrence.

45 Chair of the Amherst School Board, Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma, noted that they spent most of the  
46 meeting discussing their UFB and reviewing the list of potential end of year projects. They had  
47 a large amount of funds left over this year and they are getting a lot of projects completed. On  
48 Thursday night they will be reviewing what will be spent and what will be returned to the  
49 taxpayers.

50 The Board thanked Ms. Kuzsma.

51 Ms. Amy Facey noted that she is on the Souhegan Communications Committee. She met with  
52 Cliff Ann Wales at the Amherst Citizen and that is going digital. She presented an idea of  
53 having a calendar with important SAU dates and having that published monthly. She wants to  
54 make sure that the Board is in approval with her moving forward.

55 Mr. O'Keefe asked if she needed any volunteers.

56 Ms. Facey replied that she is thinking that Ms. Abby Wallace, Executive Assistant for  
57 Superintendent Steel, will maintain it and she will help her get it started. They will work on it  
58 over the summer.

59 Ms. Kuzsma questioned if this will be published as a hard or live list.

60 Ms. Facey replied that she does not know what kind of platform that they will be using and does  
61 not want to overburden Ms. Wallace. She was envisioning it as monthly.

62 Ms. Gruzdien inquired if this was in lieu of using the SAU #39 website.

63 Ms. Facey replied that this is in addition to. She noted that there are people in the community  
64 that may not have children in the SAU, and it would be great to let them know events.

65 Mr. O'Keefe remarked that approval does not require a motion and gave her his support.

66 Ms. Facey added that she will begin with the update of the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee.

67 She discussed that the SAU JFAC has been tasked with conducting an analysis of the state of  
68 public education facilities in Amherst. They will provide recommendations to the governing  
69 bodies (SCSB, ASB) regarding the interim and long-term facilities needs of the public-school  
70 facilities in Amherst, considering educational outcomes and how to best level the cost impact to  
71 the residents in an efficient manner. Encompassed are the following facilities: Clark Wilkins  
72 Elementary School, Amherst Middle School and Souhegan High School.

73 She added that they have a wide variety of committee members including community members,  
74 administration and board members.

75 As a result of the passing of the ASD Budget, Lavalee and Brensinger Professional Architects  
76 was hired to complete a comprehensive study of the facilities in the Amherst School District.  
77 This is the same firm that completed the Souhegan 2.0 project several years ago.

78 She then turned the presentation over to JFAC Vice-Chair, Ms. Shannon Gascoyne.

79 Ms. Gascoyne reviewed the steps completed to date.

- 80 • May 2017- Capital Needs Assessment Created
- 81 • March 2018- Voters fund Souhegan 2.0 design phase
- 82 • March 2019- Voters reject A&E fees for Amherst design phase
- 83 • May 2019- Souhegan 2.0 concept design completed
- 84 • December 2019- Facilities Summit held to discuss SAU-wide Facilities
- 85 • March 2020- Voters approve A&E fees for Amherst Design phase (C/W and AMS) as  
86 part of ASD Operating Budget
- 87 • March 2020- Voters approve funding Capital Maintenance Reserve Funds n ASD and  
88 SCSD.

89 She then shared the School Building Conditions completed by Superintendent Steel.

90 Ms. Gascoyne displayed the where they are now in the process, the second phase. She added  
91 that if the recommendation got to the point of being on a ballot then the timeline would change.  
92 She displayed the timeline for the Board.

93 She shared some of the staff highlights. At AMS some of the significant issues are acoustic  
94 separation issues, Poor HVAC (air quality and comfort issues), and portable walls need  
95 replacing. Some desires include, breakout spaces for student use, student and teacher storage  
96 spaces, new /flexible furnishings and collaborative areas and conference rooms.

97 At Clark/Wilkins, the significant issues are poor electrical and HVAC, lighting is poor and not  
98 dimmable, Café and Gym being shared is an issue and the STARS Program needs more space.

99 For requests, they would like storage (classroom and supply storage), separate gym from  
100 cafeteria (cafeteria should include a stage), staff workroom, larger classroom and move the 5<sup>th</sup>  
101 grade to C/W.

102 Ms. Facey added that the next step is to conduct a community survey. They want to let them  
103 know that this process is happening and get their feedback. Another future item is to make a  
104 presentation to the Board of Selectmen. She has emailed them, and they will be presenting to  
105 them soon. They will also be looking at the Souhegan 2.0 Plan- developing priorities and a  
106 financial plan.

107 Ms. Facey noted that they are happy to take questions from Board members.

108 Ms. Gascoyne added that there are a number of community members that are also on the call  
109 and might have questions.

110 Mr. Chen questioned Mr. Steel about the State Building Aid for Cooperative Districts.

111 Superintendent Steel replied that he is not sure at this time.

112 Mr. Chen asked if there was a way that they can create a cooperative school district, other than  
113 Souhegan, with the three districts involved.

114 Mr. Steel responded that was something they looked at over the past 4 years regarding  
115 Reconfiguration. You cannot form a cooperative without fully joining the two parties together,  
116 meaning having one board, one budget, etc. which they have found untenable during that  
117 process.

118 He gave the three options of 1. expanding the Souhegan Cooperative to include the ASD,  
119 MVVS or both, 2. the ASD and MVSD could form their own cooperative, 3. or any of the two  
120 towns could form a cooperative with a neighboring town or not.

121 Ms. Taylor inquired about making the Clark School a Community Center.

122 Ms. Facey replied that everything is on the table and she has reached out to the Selectmen  
123 regarding looking at Clark School for the Town. It is a topic of conversation and the  
124 Committee is eager to explore that as long as the District will not be utilizing that for a school.

125 Ms. Gascoyne added that they are also waiting to see what comes back from Lavallee  
126 Brensinger Architects.

127 Mr. O'Keefe asked what is the best way that they can ask questions.

128 Ms. Facey replied that she is happy to answer questions via email [afacey@sprise.com](mailto:afacey@sprise.com) and their  
129 next meeting is Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM via Zoom.

130 III. Public Comment I of II

131 Ms. Marilyn Gibson, 166 Mack Hill Road, Amherst NH, questioned if the JFAC meeting is open  
132 to the public.

133 Ms. Facey replied, yes, the meetings are open to the public.

134 Ms. Gibson inquired if they will be posting the presentation to the website.

135 Ms. Facey responded that they just developed that presentation and it will be posted to the SAU  
136 website (*Please see SAU39.org, Committees tab, Joint Facilities Advisory Committee,*  
137 *Presentations on left hand side*).

138 IV. Superintendent's Report

139 End of Year Celebrations

140 Superintendent Steel noted that they each of their schools will be doing end of year celebrations  
141 for their matriculating students and they are excited for their students and families.

142 They are pleased to announce that the Souhegan Graduation will be taking place at Souhegan ,  
143 in person, on June 19<sup>th</sup>. There are several protocols and procedures that will be put into place. It

144 will not be a public event, but for graduates, limited number of family/guests and faculty and  
145 staff.

146 SAU #39 Hiring

147 They have most of the positions at the administrative level filled or in the process for being  
148 filled. The SHS Athletic Director position and the SHS Dean of Faculty are in the final stages  
149 and he is awaiting to hear if there are candidates to bring forward.

150 The Secondary Curriculum Instruction and Assessment position at the SAU is still open. They  
151 have had a couple of candidates that were close but none that they were ready to bring forward at  
152 this time. The position is still posted. They are concerned about the title attracting candidates and  
153 the salary. The position may have to be open for the year or hire someone at a lower level. It is  
154 something that they need to discuss during the budgeting process this fall.

155 Most of the teacher positions are completed or in the final stages. They continue to attract high  
156 quality candidates from all over the state and country with many candidates having a lot of  
157 knowledge about the SAU.

158 Tomorrow night, hopefully, the Souhegan Board will be adopting a transcript for the class of  
159 2024. That is the incoming freshman class. That was developed over the last several months with  
160 parents, administrators, teachers and they are pleased to have that process in the end phase.

161 School Start Time Update

162 One item of note, the SAU Board will need to sort through is the school start times. As you  
163 know, the SAU Board has charged him with looking into a plan and developing a plan for the  
164 Fall of 2021. One challenge is that the SHS Schedule needs to be adjusted to accommodate this  
165 change for start times. He is excited to have incoming SHS Principal, Mr. Mike Berry, move  
166 forward on that and applauded Principal Hagen for all of his work. It does affect the other school  
167 districts in the SAU. That is something that the SAU Board and the other boards need to discuss  
168 in the future.

169 Financial Update Due to Covid-19 and Unassigned Fund Balance Update for each District

170 SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, noted that in the very beginning of  
171 school disruption they set up a method of tracking expenditures related to Covid-19. This  
172 includes items that were specific to supplies for that purpose or expenditures where they were  
173 continuing to support, such as the bus company and other organizations. From that perspective,  
174 they have had reductions in expenditures and so there was a shift. They do have a UFB in most  
175 districts that were in line or greater than they anticipated and then expenditures that were greater  
176 than they expected.

177 Regarding the funding for Covid-19, there is a lot of information in the news about resources for  
178 private organizations such as grants, loans and funding, none of which they are eligible for as a  
179 school district. They have received some grants from IDEA funds, earmarked for remote  
180 learning and ESY support, for Amherst \$7k, Mont Vernon \$3k, and Souhegan \$5k. Another area  
181 of Covid funding that they are anticipating to come through is allocated on the basis of Title I

182 funding. This is estimated on 85% of each district's FY' 20 Title I funding. Nothing has come  
183 through yet and she does not have specific numbers at this time.

184 They did attend a webinar hosted by Homeland Security and FEMA discussing the CARES Act  
185 and most of the dollars did not pertain to their type of organization. They keep a evaluating the  
186 UFB and did not see any major shifts since May.

187 Ms. Grund inquired about the food service funding.

188 Ms. Croteau replied that they are continuing to operate a Food Service Program through  
189 Souhegan. They are continuing to hold employees, harmless if you will, through their regular  
190 contract year. That means that in the districts that they are not serving food they are operating at  
191 a loss. It is a Federal Program, and they cannot operate as a loss and that has already been  
192 factored in. They are continuing the Food Service Program through the end of June and are  
193 billing for the meals that are served (approximately 120 meals a day). The criteria, during this  
194 period of time, is modified at this time for families that need support.

195 Mr. Chen asked about the SAU UFB.

196 Ms. Croteau replied that there are several different pieces of the UFB. She added that for the  
197 SAU operates differently in that it carries from one year to the next. The reserve is used to offset  
198 the apportionment for the rest of the districts. It will carry over to the next budget cycle.

199 Mr. Chen inquired if there was a plan to spend the funds now.

200 Ms. Croteau replied, no. She discussed that if it is not spent there is an amount, per prior Board  
201 approval, that is retained for repairs of the building.

202 Mr. Chen asked if there were Spray Sanitizers for the SAU.

203 Ms. Croteau responded, no. They do not have people that are qualified to at the SAU to handle  
204 them. They do have qualified custodians that are coming in each evening and have sprayers in  
205 each of the buildings.

206 Mr. Gauthier asked if there was something that they can see regarding the school start times.

207 Superintendent Steel replied, no, not until they sort out a Souhegan schedule.

208 Ms. Taylor asked when they will be bringing the later start times to the Board. The feedback was  
209 that 70% of the students did not want the large, 1 hour and 45-minute, change. She questioned if  
210 they have, gone back to look for middle ground.

211 Mr. Steel replied that the schedule that they are presenting is the middle ground. They were  
212 targeting 8:45AM and waiting until the schedule can be modified.

213 Ms. Taylor asked when do they expect that to happen.

214 Mr. Steel replied that is something that Mr. Berry will work on when he arrives.

215 Ms. Taylor asked about the Strategic Vision.

216 Mr. O’Keefe replied that the Strategic Vision will be looked at the SAU level. At the last Four  
 217 Board Chairs Meeting they discussed creating a year-long calendar with ideas and a timeline  
 218 when they can be discussed.

219 Ms. Taylor replied that she believes that it is relevant now and believes that they need to be  
 220 spelled out for the Board.

221 She noted that she has questions about the Transcript and Grading.

222 Mr. Steel added that that is a topic for Souhegan’s Board meeting for tomorrow.

223 Mr. Conklin requested that Community Council get the sentiments from parents and students in  
 224 the other districts.

225 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel and Ms. Croteau.

226 V. Consent Agenda

227 **Ms. Kuzsma motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items 1. Draft Minutes May 11th,**  
 228 **2020 and 2. April 2020 Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Coughlan seconded the motion. The vote**  
 229 **was unanimous motion passed (16-0).**

230 **Mr. O’Keefe called a Roll Call: Kuzsma- Yes, Gauthier- Yes, Gruzdien- Yes, Behm-Yes ,**  
 231 **Conklin- Yes, Grondstra- Yes, Facey- Yes, Grund- Yes, Coughlan- Yes, Torres- Yes,**  
 232 **Facey- Yes, Taylor-Yes, Chen- Yes, Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis- Yes, and**  
 233 **O’Keefe- Yes.**

234 VI. School Reopening

235 Mr. Steel commented that they will open school in the fall and how it looks like is to be  
 236 determined.

237 They have surveyed their parents and faculty and asked them both a similar question which was  
 238 *“If they cannot do full social distancing at school, but would take reasonable precautions,*  
 239 *would you be comfortable with sending your child to school in the fall or would you be*  
 240 *comfortable coming to work in the fall?”* About 1,000 parents and over 100 staff answered the  
 241 question and, in both cases, about 2/3 of the respondents replied “yes” and 1/3 was “no”.

242 He added that people are polarized on that topic and they need to make sure that they are  
 243 thinking of all of their students and staff, they are not going to find a solution that everyone will  
 244 be comfortable with for the fall. He has received many emails from parents on the different  
 245 levels and they know that they have to look at this topic from many facets.

246 He is putting together a task force to guide him and provide him with advice that he can use to  
 247 inform the Boards about what they need to be thinking about and what they need to be doing in  
 248 the fall. With that in mind, all board members will be invited to participate in the meetings and  
 249 the process. The task force will help him and his administration on their recommendations they  
 250 will be making to the Board about their plans for the fall.

251 He has targeted 5 different groups:

252 1. School Nurses and Community Medical Professionals: Core Team- Mr. JM Vore and  
253 Mr. Jim Manning and several others at the subgroup.

254 2. Principals, and Administration (within and outside the SAU): Principal of C/W, Ms.  
255 Anna Parrill, and Mr. Henry LaBranche, Mr. Dan Black (Assistant Superintendent -  
256 Londonderry School District)

257 3. Faculty, Staff and Associations (Unions and Souhegan PPC): Mr. Stephen O'Keefe  
258 and Ms. Amy Facey and a several teachers.

259 4. Parents and Community Members: Mr. George Bower (Souhegan SD Moderator) , Mr.  
260 Nate Jensen (Amherst SD Moderator) Mr. Peter King (Mont Vernon SD Moderator), Ms.  
261 Shannon Gascoyne (Amherst Community Member/ JFAC Vice- Chair), Mr. Reed Panasiti  
262 (Amherst Selectmen Representative) and Ms. Kim Roberge (Mont Vernon Selectman  
263 Representative)

264 5. Students: Ms. Georgia Craven, (Student Rep to the Core Team, SHS Senior and  
265 Community Council Moderator)

266 They will start meeting next Thursday and the meetings will be open to the public via Zoom.

267 They will discuss 5 key questions to start:

- 268 1. What is the right overall modality for school? Split sessions? Alternating attendance?  
269 Parent choice with reasonable precautions? Or Fully remote until they achieve herd  
270 immunity?
- 271 2. What is the best way to track individual student progress growth and achievement?
- 272 3. What competency/ recovery mechanism will they use at start up?
- 273 4. What safety precautions should be put into practice when they return to the physical  
274 school building?
- 275 5. How do they engage their constituents to ensure consensus in the community?

276 August 1<sup>st</sup> is the date that he is planning on reporting back because families need to make plans.

277 He added that everyone is welcome, and they are going to moderate through the use of the  
278 subgroups. He added that

279 Ms. Kuzsma added that there are a lot of families that are on the fence and they need to know  
280 how to give you those answers. She inquired if during the meetings will there will be options and  
281 for them to speak up and provide public comment.

282 Mr. Steel replied that he is not sure if public comment will happen at every meeting, but his goal  
283 is to hear from the public as much as possible and he is committed to that.

284 Ms. Taylor inquired to if they had surveyed the parents and students about remote learning. She  
285 asked to see the raw data.

286 Mr. O'Keefe asked for other community feedback.

287 Ms. Gibson added that she is also interested in seeing the raw data.



- 288 Ms. Grund asked how are the teachers feeling waiting to hear until August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 289 Mr. Steel explained that the teacher response was similar to the parent response. Remote learning  
290 is very hard on families and teachers.
- 291 Ms. Kelly Schmidt, 11 Patricia Lane, Amherst NH, questioned if the date of August 1<sup>st</sup> was  
292 enough time to for them to implement their options.
- 293 Mr. Steel replied that everything is on the table and he would prefer to have the most recent data.
- 294 Mr. O’Keefe questioned the information that they are receiving from the NH DOE.
- 295 Mr. Steel replied that the DOE formed a task force of their own which has wide participation.  
296 That task force is meant to advise them as superintendents in making these decisions and  
297 recommendations to the Boards. Short of that, they will need to figure it out as a community.
- 298 Ms. Grund asked about the “Redesign” part.
- 299 Mr. Steel clarified that Ms. Grund is referring to the State’s School Transition Reopening and  
300 Redesign Taskforce (STRRT).
- 301 Mr. Eckhoff inquired if they foresee a need for additional custodial staff for sanitization  
302 throughout the day and additional nursing staff to monitor the health of the students.
- 303 Mr. Steel replied that both of those are on the table and it is part of the equation.
- 304 Mr. O’Keefe asked for further questions and/or comments.
- 305 There were no further questions or comments and the Board thanked Superintendent Steel.
- 306 VII. Principals Reports
- 307 Principal of SHS, Mr. Bill Hagen, noted that he wanted to give a quick update for the activities  
308 this week. He then commended the staff and parent teacher groups working behind the scenes  
309 during this challenging time. Between today and Wednesday, the teachers are taking in the last  
310 of the assignments and by Wednesday they will be completed. This morning, the Scholarship  
311 and Honor Society Planning Team finalized their plans for an event tomorrow at 4:00PM. On  
312 June 3<sup>rd</sup>, they have a special materials pick up for Seniors and on June 5<sup>th</sup> they are planning a  
313 Senior Parade.
- 314 The Board thanked Principal Hagen.
- 315 Principal of the Amherst Middle School, Dr. Bethany Bernasconi, noted that they had an end of  
316 the year celebration for all of their students. There were approximately 187 cars that came  
317 through and it was a great closure with tears and laughter. She thanked SHS for planning that  
318 route. They have 8 teachers and support staff that are retiring. She thanked them for their  
319 service, adding that they will be dearly missed.
- 320 They are also working on an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00. They will have a  
321 virtual ceremony and drive through where families can decorate their cars. More information  
322 will be coming to families soon.

323 This week is about supporting teachers and wrapping up the school year. They are working on  
324 comments and end of year grading and reporting. They are putting together resources to help  
325 families keep the learning going all summer. She thanked the community for their support.

326 The Board thanked Dr. Bernasconi.

327 Principal of Clark/Wilkins, Ms. Anna Parrill, noted her great appreciation for the following  
328 retirees, Ms. Sherry DeFranco, Ms. Louise Guay, Ms. Lorraine Stockwell, Ms. Nance Panasiti,  
329 and Ms. Kathy Johnson.

330 Their task force has also met for their 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fond Farewell. They are slated for June 10<sup>th</sup>  
331 with a rain date of June 11<sup>th</sup>. Between 1:00 and 2:30, they will have different teams coming  
332 through and will hand them their certificate and music shirts. There will be more information  
333 coming out on Monday. June 8<sup>th</sup>.

334 In regard to placement, they have finished their meetings with teachers and are planning on  
335 moving students for the most part as a class K-2. Grades 3, they are looking to combine classes.  
336 They are still trying to provide transition activities either at virtually or in person. They have  
337 also not decided to share placement until mid-august, consistent with Mont Vernon and AMS.  
338 With incoming Kindergarten, families will receive information mid-June. Right now, they are  
339 at 118 registered.

340 She closed her report by stating that they are excited for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Fond Farewell and to  
341 honor them for all of their work.

342 The Board thanked Principal Parrill.

343 Principal of the Mont Vernon Village School, Mr. John Schuttinger, added that their teachers  
344 are also working on the reports for the students and families. Those will go out on Wednesday.  
345 As far as enrollment, they are at 27 for Kindergarten. Even as the 6<sup>th</sup> grade moves on, they are  
346 still looking at enrollment for over 200. There is also a lot of new construction going on in  
347 Mont Vernon.

348 They also had some great May events beginning with a panel discussion offered by the  
349 counselors at the middle school. Staff at AMS also created videos for students. They also had a  
350 parade a few days ago with great attendance. This week they will also be reclaiming devices  
351 and other borrowed products.

352 He concluded his report by applauding Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, for  
353 all of her work with collecting information from teachers to help them start successfully in the  
354 fall.

355 Mr. O'Keefe thanked Principal Schuttinger for his years of service. He emphasized that he will  
356 be greatly missed.

357 Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, also added her appreciation and  
358 best wishes for Principal Schuttinger.

359 The Board thanked Principal Schuttinger for his last Principal's Report.

360 Mr. Chen questioned Principal Hagen about the recent Community Council meeting and  
361 switching 6<sup>th</sup> period with 8<sup>th</sup> period. He noted that there was a poll about changing the period  
362 and if the students understood the context.

363 Principal Hagen replied that some students made valid points regarding why they want to have  
364 6<sup>th</sup> period remain where it is.

365 Mr. Chen noted that he heard a very compelling presentation regarding later school start time.  
366 He asked if there were there any alternatives that were offered.

367 Mr. Hagen explained the first proposal was about removing the White Day, and that was voted  
368 on and approved. The amendment was to put the White Day back in on Wednesdays. As that  
369 discussion took place, he realized that they would be better off if they did not do that. They will  
370 start the school year with the current schedule and then work on new conversations and new  
371 approaches if possible.

372 Ms. Behm commented that there was a couple of things that worked against them this year.  
373 First, it took a while to get through the transcripts due to remote learning. The conversation  
374 with the students had gone very well and it was going in a positive direction. Not all is lost but  
375 they are not as far as they would have liked.

376 The Board thanked Principal Hagen.

#### 377 VIII. Grading Software Committee

378 Assistant Superintendent Landwehrle discussed that the Grading Software Committee was  
379 formed in the spring of 2020 based on feedback from a staff survey showing the need to review  
380 other grading software. Feedback from teachers indicated that their current system, Empower  
381 Learning, is not meeting teacher needs. Through that survey, teachers were able to indicate an  
382 interest in serving on a committee to review other software. Their grading software committee  
383 includes teachers, building and SAU leadership, a school board member, and a student.

384 The goal of the grading software committee is to review other standards-based grading and  
385 reporting software to determine if there is program that fits our grading practices but is more  
386 user-friendly for teachers than Empower Learning. The committee is conducting a deep review  
387 of other standards-based grading software, determining software to pilot, and developing a pilot  
388 plan. They have met several times and their work is going really well. They are down to two  
389 different types of software, TeacherEase and PowerTeacher Pro. There are also links for the  
390 Board in the Agenda Packet.

391 Ms. Taylor thanked Ms. Landwehrle for starting a committee and forming other options. She  
392 asked if there were other options beside Empower for next year.

393 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they still want parents to have access to scores online. She does not  
394 what to disrupt where parents have data.

395 Ms. Taylor inquired about the maximum available score and how it is going to be reflected on  
396 transcripts.

397 Ms. Landwehrle explained that they do have summer work planned to look at the assessments  
398 across the school year. The Assessment Grading and Reporting Committee noted that they also  
399 want to look at achieving maximum score and what that looks like in grading software. She can  
400 provide more information in the fall when they complete some of the work over the summer.

401 Ms. Grund commented that she has been sitting on some of software meetings and has heard the  
402 teachers asking some great questions. She asked if they were going to include parents in the  
403 pilot and questioned how they going to calculate the Core Score. It makes a difference how they  
404 are going to calculate the score.

405 Ms. Landwehrle replied that there are critical decision points along the way with whatever  
406 software that they choose. She feels strongly that they would have to make a SAU wide  
407 decision as to how they calculate that score, but it is every standard score. The committee  
408 would need to look at their options. While they are piloting that might be an important piece if  
409 they are down to two different options.

410 With the parents, they would want them to be involved and what they would really want to  
411 know is if it better. They would ask them if it gives a cleaner, clearer picture of their child as a  
412 learner. They would do that in one of two ways. Either if they had a full group that wants to  
413 pilot software and then they could pull the parents in. They want to make sure that teachers are  
414 comfortable with using the software first.

415 Mr. O’Keefe asked about the cost parameters of the new software as opposed to Empower.

416 Ms. Landwehrle replied that she is pulling pricing now. PowerTeacher Pro is an add on to  
417 PowerSchool and they have already purchased PowerSchool.

418 Ms. Taylor asked when can parents have access and if they have done any type of assessment.

419 Ms. Landwehrle replied that at the high school teachers are working on grades over the next  
420 few days.

421 Mr. O’Keefe suggested that she email her response since she was having technical difficulties.

422 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

423 IX. Public Comment II of II

424 Mr. John D’Angelo, Amherst Town Selectmen Representative, commented that if they can hold  
425 a live graduation then they should be able to have celebrations for the smaller clubs and teams.

426 Principal Hagen replied that unfortunately they have already decided that Prom will not happen  
427 this year. Sadly, there are going to be some events that will not be possible. Superintendent  
428 Steel has organized the Graduation in a safe manner.

429 Mr. D’Angelo remarked that he understands not being able to have a socially distant Prom. He  
430 long remembers the people he spent time within the smaller clubs. Some of them have been on  
431 the same teams for 4 years. A blanket policy of “No” is not the best answer.

432 Ms. Courtney Vore, Amherst NH, remarked that the teachers have been doing an amazing job  
433 with remote learning. She inquired if they do have remote learning in the fall, will there be any  
434 teacher training going on over the summer.

435 Mr. Steel replied that part of their job this summer is to evaluate this past spring what went well  
436 and what did not. Then they know that they will have to provide additional training. They will  
437 be doing what they can to prepare their teachers for the fall.

438 Ms. Vore asked when will that training take place.

439 Mr. Steel replied, it is to be determined and they are thinking the late fall.

440 Ms. Taylor inquired how many students will be taking advantage of summer school.

441 Mr. Steel replied that he does know that number off hand, they have Extended School Year and  
442 Competency Recovery opportunities.

443 Principal Hagen added that some parents have been communicated to and they are gathering  
444 that data to be completed soon.

445 Ms. Gibson applauded AMS Learning Specialist, Ms. Terry LaCoss for her granddaughter's  
446 positive experience.

447 The Board thanked Mr. D'Angelo, Ms. Vore and Ms. Gibson for their comments.

448 X. Meeting Adjourned

449 **Ms. Facey adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.**

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