

SAU #39 Board Meeting

Monday, August 10th, 2020

Meeting Minutes-Approved 08 27 2020

Attendees:

Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant Superintendent, Deanna Cordts- CW Nurse, Roger Preston- Director of Facilities, Mike Berry- Principal SHS, Bethany Bernasconi- Principal AMS, and Anna Parrill- Principal Clark Wilkins.

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

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Pim Grondstra- Chair, Amy Facey- Vice Chair, Stephanie Grund- Secretary, Steve Coughlan, Laura Taylor and David Chen.

Mont Vernon School Board: Sarah Lawrence- Chair, Peter Eckhoff- Vice-Chair, Stephen O'Keefe, and Scott St. Denis.

Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

Public: Larry Ballard, AMS Chorus Teacher, Daniel Sullivan, Amherst NH, and Kate Costello, Amherst, NH.

I. Call to Order

Chair of the SAU #39 Board, Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. SAU #39 Chair Opening Remarks

He then asked the Board attending (via Zoom), if it was impractical for them to be here in the Souhegan Learning Commons and if they were alone. He called a Roll Call: Coughlan- Yes, Lawrence- Yes, Conklin- Yes, St. Denis- Yes, Grudzien- Yes, Kuzsma- Yes, Torres- Yes, Taylor- Yes, Chen- Yes.

He noted that with him in person is, Mr. Tom Gauthier, Ms. Stephanie Grund, Ms. Terri Behm, Ms. Amy Facey, Mr. Pim Grondstra and Mr. Peter Eckhoff. Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, is also in attendance along with other members of SAU #39 Administration.

I think that it is safe to say I speak on behalf of all of my fellow board members that we sincerely appreciate your attendance at tonight's meeting, and all look forward to a productive dialogue.

Tonight, they will be reviewing their school re-opening plan as presented by Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, and his Administration. Before they get started, he wanted to acknowledge the countless individuals who over the past 8 weeks have donated their time and efforts to draft this plan for their review. Over 100 faculty, staff, community members, medical professionals and students met 2 to 3 times per week to collaborate and design a plan that incorporates many concepts and safety protocols. There was no road map for them to refer to. This is a plan that was

36 crafted by all of the participants in a transparent and open process. That consistently sought
37 feedback from each of the various stakeholders within their two communities of Amherst and
38 Mont Vernon.

39 He commended the various individuals who led their respective groups during this process.
40 School Nurses and Community Medical Personnel- Chair, Mr. Jim Manning, Principals and
41 School Administrators- Chair, Ms. Anna Parrill, Faculty, Staff and Associations- Mr. O’Keefe
42 and Chair, Ms. Facey, Parents and Community Members-Chair, Ms. Shannon Gascoyne and
43 Students-Chair, Ms. Georgia Craven, their School Board Policy Committee- Chair, Ms. Kuzsma.

44 The time that each member of these various sub-committees gave to their two communities was
45 great and sincerely appreciated. On behalf of his fellow board members, a sincere and enormous
46 thank you to everyone.

47 As they begin their presentation, he would like to cover a few procedural matters. To start their
48 meeting, he has asked for each of their respective Board Chairs to deliver brief opening remarks.
49 He will then ask their superintendent to begin his presentation.

50 After his presentation, he will open the discussion to his fellow board members. He would also
51 like to note that he has solicited well over 500 questions in advance of their session tonight from
52 his fellow board members. Superintendent Steel has had the opportunity to address them in his
53 presentation this evening and/or at their individual board meetings next week.

54 Once his fellow board members have had ample opportunity to review the plan and discuss its
55 various components, he will open the meeting up to questions from the public. Those questions
56 should be submitted to him through Zoom and not their chat feature. If you have similar
57 concerns about a question, you may hit “like” on that question to bring it to the top of their list of
58 questions. If you are participating tonight via Facebook and have a question, he will ask that you
59 please click the link on Facebook that will bring you to their Zoom Meeting and submit their
60 question via Zoom.

61 After the public comment has closed, he will accept a motion on the re-opening plan and call for
62 a vote. All members are reminded of their responsibilities to their community members and are
63 expected to cast a vote. They will then move their conversation to their SAU #39 Policy
64 Committee to discuss the necessary policy updates to support their opening plan should it pass.

65 After a second public comment period, he will call for a vote on motions in hand in support of
66 the policies. With that said, he thanked everyone for joining them this evening.

67 Chair of the Amherst School Board, Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma, thanked all of staff, administrators
68 and parents that have given their time to the Task Force Committee Meetings and Subcommittee
69 meetings.

70 Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, also thanked the members of the
71 Task Force and new MVVS Principal, Dr. Kim Sarfde. They have a MV school board meeting
72 on Monday, Aug 17th at 5:00PM via Zoom Webinar.

73 Chair of the Souhegan Cooperative School Board, Mr. Pim Grondstra, also commended the Task
74 Force and new SHS Principal, Mr. Mike Berry. He added that they have a school board meeting
75 on Tuesday, August 18th at 6:00PM via Zoom Webinar.

76 Ms. Kuzsma added that the Amherst School Board also has a meeting scheduled for Monday,
77 August 17th at 7:00PM via Zoom Webinar.

78 III. SAU #39 Re-Opening Plan

79 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, remarked that he is not in attendance at SHS due to being out
80 of town and per the Governor's Directives, self-quarantining. He commended the many members
81 of the Task Force adding that he is proud of the work that they have completed. They have
82 adjusted along the way and it was put together with input from various stakeholders. This really
83 is the Community's Plan and they have been very transparent in the process. Their meetings
84 were public, virtually attended by several hundred people and that has led to a set of documents
85 that detail this plan at various levels of depth. They are going to go through the structure of the
86 plan this evening and each school has very detailed building level plans. It will be available to
87 the public once it is posted on their webpage. Those very detailed plans have questions not only
88 from the administration but the community.

89 In addition, board members have asked many, many questions in advance of this meeting. They
90 are proud that they have done that and have answered those questions in writing ahead of time.
91 They will also post those for the community. He encouraged the public to ask their own
92 questions and they will answer them as a FAQ. They want this process to be available at the
93 public's level of comfort.

94 Tonight's meeting is about the funding and policy objectives that are the responsibility of the
95 school boards. It is about the SAU Board understanding the plan as a whole and as it interacts
96 between the three districts, four schools and two towns. It hinges on them all working together.
97 Once adopted by this Board, each individual board will have the opportunity to review the
98 specific funding requests and individual things that affect their school(s) and districts.

99 He will discuss specifically about the conditions today opening in status Yellow. He emphasized
100 that he is honored to be the Superintendent of the SAU #39. The plan that they have put together
101 is something that comes from the bottom of his heart and is in the best interest of the students,
102 staff, parents and community. None of this has been taken lightly. They believe that these plans
103 are the safest and most prudent for their staff and students.

104 He reviewed the overall objective of Each Student Safely Achieves At Least A Year of
105 Academic Growth by Memorial Day. First, they are talking about each and every student. They
106 are not talking of ending school by Memorial Day. All of the plans are built around that
107 objective.

108 Superintendent Steel then reviewed some Foundation points

- 109 1. This entire school year (and others after it) are likely to be disrupted
- 110 2. Conditions and individual comfort levels are going to be dynamic and unpredictable
- 111 and will vary by season.

- 112 3. Overall guidance for safety protocols is the responsibility of the Governor and DHHS
 113 4. Remote learning must be rigorous and strive to be a reasonable facsimile for in-person
 114 school
 115 5. Learning outcomes, standards, and progress must remain intact
 116 6. Teachers should be expected to instruct via one modality at a time
 117 7. Each member of the school community- parents, students, teachers, administrators, and
 118 staff- must be committed to our objective for the year for us to be successful.

119 He commented on some Key Strategies.

- 120 1. Each member of the school community will be given freedom to make choices that are
 121 comfortable for them, while remaining responsible for their role in meeting our objective
 122 2. The school year will be broken into short segments of time that will allow for
 123 flexibility in scheduling and in response to changing conditions
 124 3. We will create redundancy and flexibility with teachers and groups of students in novel
 125 ways
 126 4. Every student will have an Anchoring Adult who will be the key point of contact.
 127 5. Significant Professional Development support and time will be provided to Faculty
 128 6. Leverage outdoor opportunities whenever possible to create social distance
 129 7. Segment 1 of the school year will focus on connection, communication, organization,
 130 and developing year-long plans for courses and individual student success.

131 Superintendent Steel explained that the Task Force met weekly for the last two months and
 132 included 100+ community and staff members and was organized in sub-committees: School
 133 nurse, science, and medical, Administrators, Faculty, Staff, and Associations, Community
 134 Members, Students, and Social/Emotional Learning specialists. Their guidance has been key in
 135 developing this plan.

136 He further reviewed the safety status colors. Red- School campus closed- remote learning only ,
 137 Orange- School campus only open for priority/small-group purposes, Yellow- School campus
 138 open with significant safety and social distancing restrictions, Green-School campus open with
 139 recommended guidelines, and Blue- Near-normal campus access.

140 The decision points that they relied are on 1. The local determination of health and safety of their
 141 community, 2. Federal/Governor/DHHS decree or Executive order, 3. Local case counts/
 142 hospitalizations/mortality data, 4. Resource availability 5. Parent and Faculty relative comfort
 143 level with on-campus access and 6. Increasing quality of the remote instructional model, to
 144 increase with time.

145 In status Red, it is similar to what happened this spring. There is no access to the school campus.
 146 They hope that this will not happen.

147 In status Orange (limited access) this is short of a full closure, limited access allows school
 148 campuses to be accessed by students with special needs, those who require additional support,
 149 and no more than 25% of the school population on a rotating basis. For example, there would be
 150 first grade students at school one day and then second grade, sixth grade, etc. This would mean
 151 the strictest cleaning protocols, masks required for staff on campus and for students, who are
 152 able, while indoors, minimization of travel within the building and social distancing required
 153 except when a student need precludes it.

154 In status Yellow, there is full access to the school campus for staff and students with significant
 155 safety protocols and a focus on reducing need for physical access to the campus when possible.
 156 There will still be the highest cleaning protocols, masks required for all staff and students inside
 157 school buildings, minimization of travel within the building, social distancing prioritized, but not
 158 required, inside classrooms, disciplinary policy supporting enforcement of safety protocols in
 159 school, and policy restricting symptomatic access to the school building by faculty or students.

160 In status Green (campus open), this when they expect 85-90% of the students to be on campus
 161 and the pandemic has largely passed. They would continue with strict cleaning protocols, mask
 162 use suggested, typical movement within the building with logical reduction in large gatherings,
 163 social distancing encouraged inside classrooms and policy restricting symptomatic access to the
 164 school building by faculty or students.

165 In status Blue, they are near normalcy. School is close to being back to normal operations and
 166 they are confident that they are past any near-term risk of contagion in the school community.
 167 Additionally, cleaning protocols will remain in place, mask use allowed, no reduction in
 168 movement or activity within the building and discouraged symptomatic access to the school
 169 building by faculty or students.

170 In the school year calendar, the school year will be broken up into 11 segments. Each segment
 171 will have updated protocols/modality changes finalized two weeks prior to the start of each
 172 segment in order to give choice to our community members. Each segment will create natural
 173 breaks in curriculum. They will maximize learning during times of low-impact safety concerns.
 174 School vacations may be altered based on changing conditions. Lastly, their overall goal is to
 175 aim for Memorial Day as their natural ending point with wrap-up of the year to happen in June,
 176 as needed.

177 Superintendent Steel noted the schedule with the beginning being two weeks long. When you are
 178 making the choice to be in-person or remote please keep in mind those natural breaks.

179 He further reviewed the Board action steps.

180 1. Renew motion from March: Motion to authorize the Superintendent to take any actions he
 181 deems reasonability necessary to address the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus to our
 182 students, staff, and community including but not limited to, modifying the SAU's Calendar
 183 and/or the manner of delivery of educational services, and consistent with all applicable statues,
 184 rules, and regulations.

185 2. Adopt a COVID-19 temporary policy

186 3. Formally move to support the structural plan: Motion to provide board support for the re-
 187 opening plan as presented by the Superintendent, subject to individual board support for
 188 appropriations and policy adoption.

189 4. Approve appropriation plan at constituent board meetings

190 He then explained the specific timeline. SAU Board Adopts Framework/Superintendent Declares
 191 Segment 1 Status August 10 at 6PM (Tonight)

192 Parent Information Nights:

193 August 11: C-W at 4PM, Souhegan at 6PM

194 August 12: MVVS at 4PM, AMS at 6PM

195 Parents and Staff Decide on Segment 1: (Through PowerSchool, and for an ongoing basis) More
 196 information to come.

197 August 13-15

198 Constituent School Boards Review and Adopt Funding Plans:

199 August 17: MVSB at 5PM, ASB at 7PM

200 August 18: SCSB Meeting at 6PM

201 Professional Development for Staff:

202 August 24-27 and August 31-September 1: All faculty PD

203 August 28, September 4, and September 8: Buildings open for faculty/staff

204 New Student/Matriculation Tours:

205 August 27-28 (schedule TBD)

206 August School Board Meetings:

207 August 27 (ASB at 3PM, MVSB at 4PM, SCSB at 5PM, SAU at 6PM)

208 School Start Schedule:

209 September 2: First day for MVVS, Wilkins, and AMS, grades 9 and 12

210 September 3: First day for Clark, Souhegan grades 10-11

211 September 4: No School

212 September 8: Remote only for all students (Primary Election Day, 2 schools used for elections)

213 He added that they could move to remote only in September if it is too hot.

214 He then explained that RSA 200:39 allows them to have a temporary policy. This permits the
 215 Superintendent to require masks, to ban students for failure to adhere to the requirements, makes

216 temporary changes to other policies (minor adjustments) and makes access to the physical school
217 campus contingent on a notification requirement for testing and test results related to COVID-19.

218 Superintendent Steel then read the Draft Policy in its entirety: <https://bit.ly/sau39-covid-policy>)

219 Ms. Deanna Cordts, Nurse at Clark/Wilkins, then discussed parent responsibilities including
220 screening their child daily at home prior to sending them to school for the following:

- 221 • Check temperature if Fever ≥ 100.0 (Do not send to school)
- 222 • Chills
- 223 • Headache
- 224 • GI symptoms—nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomachache
- 225 • Upper respiratory symptoms—cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
- 226 • Excessive Fatigue
- 227 • Body ache
- 228 • Loss of taste or smell
- 229 • Known exposure to COVID-19 + person
- 230 • Recent travel outside of the New England States

231 If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then the child should remain home. They then need
232 to call their Primary Care Provider and the child should be tested.

233 Staff will self-check temperatures at home and prior to entry to school building daily and to
234 complete symptom questionnaires as designated by the SAU.

235 Students should wear a well fitted cloth mask that covers their nose and mouth. Parents are
236 encouraged to have their child wear the mask so that they can get used to them before the start of
237 the school year. Teachers are to call the health office if they have a student that they would like
238 to be seen by the nurse. The nurse will then come to the classroom to assess that child. Students
239 requiring morning medication need to take their medication at home to decrease traffic in the
240 Health Office.

241 If a child or staff presents with any of the above symptoms even if they are mild symptoms,
242 (without previously reported history of condition) then they will be dismissed.

243 Once a child/staff is dismissed they will be required to contact their primary care provider and be
244 tested for COVID-19. The person may return to school with proof of a negative test result.
245 There will be a required quarantine of 10 consecutive days after dismissal while test results are
246 pending or if no test was done. There is also a requirement to be 24 hours symptom free (10/1
247 rule). This is NHPHD state guidelines. Sibling(s) from the same household may be dismissed as
248 well. Parents will be required to sign off on the above guidelines during the registration process
249 to show understanding and acknowledgement of them.

250 Regarding contact tracing, if someone has tested positive for Covid-19, the State will then be
251 notified. The State will then contact the Nurse at the school, and they will help with contract
252 tracing, but they will do the main tracing. People will then quarantine on that and they will help
253 with notification. The whole idea of the pods is to keep exposure to a minimum. Regarding
254 quarantining, the guidelines are within 6 feet of a person for 10 minutes or more.

255 The Board thanked Ms. Cordts.

256 Director of Facilities, Mr. Roger Preston, noted that they have been working very closely on their
257 cleaning protocols with their chemical provider. They are also working with the Nurses and
258 Athletic Directors to clean athletic equipment. Their chemical provider has provided training
259 they are developing frequencies. Cleaning protocols are very important to them and they want to
260 make sure the buildings safe for students and staff.

261 Superintendent Steel explained the resource requests broken down into 3 categories, Immediate,
262 Short Term and Long Term. In terms of resource requests, it is broken down into groups of PD,
263 PPE, Staffing, Furniture/Misc., and Cleaning/Storage and by district.

264 He added that they are going to give a high-level overview for their HVAC plans. They will do
265 the short-term things that they can do and then accelerate the long-term projects. This will all tie
266 into the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee's work.

267 Mr. Preston added that there are 7 options for all the buildings in the SAU #39. He first
268 mentioned that they are looking to provide more fresh air into the buildings, ideally, changing
269 the air over 6 times per hour. This will result in fresh air every 10 minutes. Option 2 is
270 upgrading the filters in the unit ventilators and air handlers. Currently, they are running a MERV
271 8 filter and would like to use a MERV 11 or MERV 13. They have to use caution as increasing
272 the thickness of the filter would also restrict air flow. They have also looked into adding UV
273 lights into the existing HVAC. They are also looking at adding Bipolar Ionization, installing a
274 free standing HEPA filter cart and then installing UV direct lights in each classroom.

275 They are not recommending replacing the units in the Clark School. This site would be better
276 suited as a Town community center.

277 Mr. Steel covered the funding sources of reprioritizing the existing budget (includes a budget
278 freeze for non-essential purchases already in place and savings in their health insurance). In
279 addition, they have Federal and State Grants and a special district meeting.

280 He recommended that each Board authorizes an emergency district meeting for the short-term
281 expenditures needed for this year to operate schools safely.

282 For Amherst and Souhegan to additionally attempt a bond issue to fund long-term HVAC
283 upgrades immediately that add air conditioning, UV filtering, and meet new school construction
284 building code for fresh air requirements

285 For Mont Vernon, to re-purpose a capital reserve fund from near-term roof replacement to
286 perform long-term HVAC upgrades immediately. They will then need to replace the roof fund.

287 IV. Building Level Plans

288

- 289 • Souhegan High School

290 Principal of SHS, Mr. Mike Berry, discussed that this is an overview and they will answer
291 questions in greater depth at a later time. He emphasized that the school year will look different,
292 but it will take compromise, cooperation and sacrifice. He is excited about this opportunity and it

293 is going to be individualized and personalized. As mentioned throughout this process, they are
 294 going to Black and Gold Days. Wednesdays are Independent Learning Days not Flex Days from
 295 the Spring. No regularly scheduled classes but the expectation that students are working
 296 throughout the day. They are going to be limiting the number of people in the building at a time
 297 and utilizing Google Classroom and other resources. They will know more as families
 298 communicate their preference for in person or remote for Segment 1.

299 He then showed the Board what a schedule would like for a remote and in person student.

300 The Board thanked Principal Berry.

301 • Mont Vernon Village School

302 Principal of the MVVS, Dr. Kim Sarfde, noted that that they will focus on 1. Creating a safe and
 303 comfortable environment for students and staff 2. Ensuring that all students make at least one
 304 year of academic growth 3. Embrace flexibility and creativity and 4. Most importantly...ignite a
 305 passion for learning.

306 She noted that safety is paramount at MVVS. They will work together to create a culture that
 307 normalizes masks as a way to minimize the spread of germs. At the same time, they recognize
 308 that everyone needs a break. Mask breaks will be built in approximately every hour. They will
 309 occur throughout the day, indoors and outside, whenever possible.

310 Their school hours will be uninterrupted. There will be 1 start and end time, a regular bus
 311 schedule, exterior classroom doors (except K), all hands on deck during arrival & dismissal to
 312 guide students and detailed videos are forthcoming as they work out logistics for arrival and
 313 dismissal.

314 There will be Grade level Bands K-2, 3-4 and 5-6. WIN (What I Need) will be comprised of
 315 remediation or enrichment based on what each student needs. This will sustain high
 316 achievement and high growth at the same time boost high achievers with low growth. They can
 317 provide timely and intensive support for students with low achievement and low growth with
 318 frequent progress monitoring.

319 Special educators will deliver services to identified students remotely and in-person. The three
 320 MVVS special education teachers will focus on the grade-level band (K-2, 3-4, 5-6) that best fits
 321 their skill level. They may also work collaboratively to meet the needs of students outside of
 322 their assigned grade-level band.

323 Placement meetings with parents will take place via Zoom, whenever possible.

324 Speech services and occupational therapy will be delivered in-person and remotely.

325 Relationships and connections will be central to their success in keeping students engaged in the
 326 MVVS school community. For this reason, all students will be provided an Anchoring Adult.

327 The Anchoring Adult may be a Homeroom Teacher, Interventionist, or someone within the
 328 building that has formed a meaningful relationship with the student . The purpose of the
 329 Anchoring Adult is to keep our students connected to school, provide appropriate supports, and
 330 streamline communication. Anchoring Adults will be assigned no later than August 24, 2020.

331 Principal Sarfde showed the Board a Schedule Example.

332 They will utilize outdoor spaces as much as possible. Thanks to our amazing MVPTA, they will
 333 set up shady areas, and utilize flexible seating options to allow for outdoor learning and mask
 334 breaks as much as possible. They will also set up three or four “classroom areas” that teachers
 335 will be able to sign up for via shared documents.

336 The Board thanked Principal Sarfde.

337 • Clark/Wilkins School

338 Principal of Clark/Wilkins, Ms. Anna Parrill, noted that they had sent out to parents a 15-page
 339 document with procedures and video links.

340 She reviewed the in-person instruction, Teaching Teams (POD Structure). Students will be
 341 assigned to a homeroom with between 10 and 15 students with a full-sized classroom space. The
 342 homeroom teacher will be the Anchoring Adult for the students in their class. Each homeroom
 343 will be a part of a three-person teaching POD comprised of a total group of 30 to 45 students. All
 344 instruction, including Special Education and Intervention, will occur within the POD. Students
 345 will NOT mix with other students outside of their POD.

346 She showed the different grade levels and POD’s and a sample in-person instruction schedule.

347 School Hours have been adjusted and will be 9:15 - 3:05. At both Clark and Wilkins arrival and
 348 dismissal procedures will change to allow for appropriate physical distancing. Detailed plans and
 349 videos are available on the SAU #39 and Clark-Wilkins website.

350 For lunch, all students will eat lunch in their classrooms. At Clark and Wilkins, school lunch will
 351 be delivered to classrooms by school staff, parent volunteers will not assist with lunch and
 352 specific lunch times will be determined by PODs and in conjunction with the school nutrition
 353 team.

354 For recess, A POD of students will attend recess together (3 separate locations and not wearing
 355 masks at a distance). At Wilkins, students will be limited to one of three designated recess
 356 spaces. A schedule will be developed that will allow rotations of space to provide equity. At
 357 Clark, students will be able to use the full playground space with the other students in their POD.
 358 Students will be able to use the playground but will not use handheld shared equipment.

359 For remote learning, there will be a designated remote learning classroom teacher established for
 360 grades 1, 2, 3, and 4. Remote learning teachers will be responsible for all content instruction and
 361 small group instruction for remote learners in their class. Students who receive Special Education
 362 services that elect to participate in remote learning, will receive remote Special Education
 363 services. Specials will be conducted remotely for all C/W students and remote students will have
 364 the opportunity to participate in the same block of schedules as their in-person peers.

365 She is looking forward for all parents to participate at their webinar at 4PM tomorrow.

366 The Board thanked Principal Parrill.

367 • Amherst Middle School

368 Principal of Amherst Middle School, Dr. Bethany Bernasconi, noted that she will do a high-level
369 overview. She highlighted the foundations of Social/Emotional connections and needs, flexibility
370 for teachers and families, time for prep, planning, collaboration, and professional learning,
371 Personalized learning; maintaining time for intervention, reteaching and extension opportunities
372 and differentiated learning needs of students, Integrated Arts as an essential component for
373 students and a healthy and safe learning environment for all.

374 She added that the Anchoring Adults are bridged through the Launch Pad, and Morning Meeting
375 will happen in 5th grade. She further explained Teacher Teams, Schedule Modifications,
376 Segment- Based and EAGLE and “Smart” Lunch Blocks.

377 She explained the Guiding Principles: Common schedule across the building, preserve as much
378 current planning/prep/collaboration/PD time as possible, simplify the schedule so that it works
379 both for in-person and remote, preserve time for interventions/enrichment/ extra help, time for
380 connections and SEL, maintain a robust integrated arts program, and mid-day break or “Smart”
381 lunch (45 min will be lunch and recess).

382 She showed the Board a sample schedule and then discussed remote learning. Online and on-
383 campus students will follow the same schedule, curriculum, and assessments. Online learners
384 will be assigned a teacher at the beginning of each segment. The teacher will communicate this
385 and any changes to the student and family via email. The assigned teacher may change at the
386 beginning of a new segment due to the numbers of online learners, teachers available for on-line
387 instruction, or needs of the learner. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of Eagle,
388 Launchpad, and each Core. Google Classroom will be the primary interface for all on-line and
389 on-campus learners.

390 Dr. Bernasconi explained that each core begins with synchronous student-teacher interactions
391 that follow the bell schedule: This may include warm-ups, direct instruction, discussions,
392 etc. Practice/Activity/Assessments: Individual or small group work during the class. This may
393 be on-screen or screen free depending on the learning activity and outcomes. The teacher will
394 keep the Zoom meeting open during this time for student questions, help, or to meet with
395 students as needed. Each core ends with synchronous student-teacher wrap-up, closing activities,
396 and/or work/draft submissions.

397 All on-line learners will participate in asynchronous Integrated Arts (IA) courses that mirror the
398 on-campus course. Students participate in 2 IA courses during each segment and are assigned
399 to these in our student information system, PowerSchool. At the beginning of a new segment or
400 when changing to a new IA course, students will receive an email inviting them to join the
401 appropriate Google Classroom to access their assigned IA course.

402 Eagle is preserving the opportunity for services, intervention, extension, and re-teaching.
403 Students begin the day in Launchpad assignments- this limits group size and movement. Students
404 will create weekly plans with the support of their teachers, have the opportunity to engage in
405 various activities/lessons/projects, as well as scheduled re-teaching, intervention, and services
406 through a virtual platform- Zoom, Google Classroom. Services for special education (on-campus
407 learners) to be face to face as much as possible.

- 408 The Board thanked Dr. Bernasconi.
- 409 Superintendent Steel noted that they have posted all of the information on the website.
- 410 V. Board Questions
- 411 Chairman O’Keefe remarked that they will open the questions to the Board.
- 412 Mr. Gauthier asked about the UFB from last year and if they can carry it over.
- 413 Mr. Steel replied, only with a special school district meeting. It will still have a tax impact. The
414 funds from last year can still be used for this purpose.
- 415 Ms. Grund asked about making the beginning of January 4th remote.
- 416 Mr. Steel replied that yes, it is a possibility also over the holidays as well. That is why the
417 segments are set up as week segments because it unpredictable.
- 418 Ms. Grund asked about the staffing the food service and how do they predict the need.
- 419 Mr. Steel responded that the Food Services team will still have to find a way to predict need
420 accurately. They also might ask parents their preference a few days ahead of time.
- 421 Ms. Facey asked about adjustments for the Teacher Leader Effectiveness and support for
422 teachers.
- 423 Mr. Steel replied that they are not absent from teacher evaluations. They are thinking through
424 about evaluations and it is designed to be a coaching model.
- 425 Ms. Gruzdien asked about the Clark/Wilkins new school start time and if New Mornings will be
426 available for parents for early drop off. Second, in regard to outdoor classrooms, what can be
427 done through the community.
- 428 Mr. Steel noted that small children wearing masks for will not work well. They are working
429 through things with New Mornings, but they are not definite yet.
- 430 Principal Parrill replied that they have asked the PTA for an outdoor tent and they have a large
431 outdoor space. It comes down to logistics and they have the ground for it. They feel fortunate for
432 those opportunities.
- 433 Mr. Chen asked if they can offer an award for best practices or creative ideas.
- 434 Mr. Steel replied, if they have the time and capacity then he is in support.
- 435 Mr. Torres asked about legislative funding from the State that is available for Covid expenses.
- 436 Mr. Steel responded that there are some rumors of funding, but he is not aware of anything.
- 437 Mr. O’Keefe questioned starting school before Labor Day. He added that people might be
438 traveling out of State.
- 439 Mr. Steel commented that he is concerned with instructional time.

440 Ms. Grund inquired about the staggered start time at SHS. They are losing the opportunity for
441 instructional time. She believes that they need to revisit and bring the 9th and 10th graders in
442 school.

443 Principal Berry added that this was not an easy decision and they had to change the Master
444 Schedule. They will be looking at maximizing the instruction time he will be happy to explain
445 further at the next SCSB meeting.

446 Ms. Gruzdien asked about Kindergarten and remote learning.

447 Mr. Steel replied that he is concerned with Kindergarteners being remote learners. He
448 encouraged the board to think outside of age as it translates to grade level. Some students might
449 need more time before taking the next step.

450 Ms. Gruzdien commented that it is something that the community has been talking about for
451 quite some time.

452 Principal Parrill remarked that Kindergarten as remote learning will be an option on the parent
453 survey. They are prepared but are waiting for the numbers to know the shift and pivot for every
454 segment. There will be a remote option for Kindergarten and first grade.

455 Principal Sarfde also replied that their two interventionists have elected to teach remotely. They
456 will be teaching Humanities, ELA; and Math K-4. There is a third teacher that will teach 5-6
457 only and some science as well.

458 Mr. Grondstra questioned health screening. He noted his concern with staggered starts and
459 suggested doing an online health questionnaire. He also asked about a reason to record any
460 information to look at trends. Some doctors do similar.

461 Ms. Cordts replied that they are not electing to check students at the door due to social distancing
462 protocols. There is a new program in demographics where information is added by the parent and
463 they do have access to that.

464 Ms. Taylor inquired if you answer yes, in the Health Questionnaire are you not allowed to
465 participate or attend school.

466 Ms. Cordts replied, yes, and you are recommended to get a Covid test from your primary care
467 doctor. Those are the guidelines from the State.

468 Ms. Taylor noted her concern with using NWEA as an assessment.

469 Ms. Landwehrle added that they use NWEA in the 9th grade and the beginning of 10th grade. It
470 will be important in 10th grade. They always use multiple data points.

471 VI. Public Comment

472 Mr. O'Keefe mentioned that there will be no questions answered just comments allotted in 3-
minute segments.

473 Mr. Larry Ballard, AMS Teacher, commented from a teacher perspective, that it is challenging
474 not to have all of the safety information in order to make an informed decision.

475 Mr. Daniel Sullivan, Amherst NH, questioned why they have not looked into outdoor
 476 classrooms. HVAC is one of the biggest problems and a lot of the learning can be done outside.
 477 He commented that his children would do better in learning pods with their friends.

478 Ms. Kate Costello, Amherst NH, inquired why the start times will be changed. She added that it
 479 will be difficult for working parents to adjust their work schedule.

480 Mr. Grondstra motioned to accept the SAU #39 Re-Opening Plan as presented. Mr. St.
481 Denis seconded the motion.

482 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

483 Ms. Taylor asked if he can verify what is being presented and questioned if they should do
 484 weighting voting.

485 Mr. O’Keefe replied the Re-Opening plan that was presented by Superintendent Steel, that was
 486 the plan that was sent to them prior to the meeting, the school Re-Opening plan includes the
 487 segmentation of their calendar year, the status of the school buildings in terms of being opened
 488 or closed, the potential administration of policies that are going to restrict access to their
 489 buildings or request students not to attend, and the remote option for students and faculty.

490 Ms. Taylor asked if weighted voting was an option.

491 Mr. Steel replied that it is always an option when a majority of those present vote for a weighted
 492 vote.

493 Ms. Taylor then requested a weighted vote.

494 Ms. Gruzdien asked for clarification on a weighted vote.

495 Mr. Steel read Title XV, Education, Chapter 194-C, School Administrative Units

496 *Section 194-C:8 “194-C:8 Weighted Voting. – In all votes regarding school administrative unit*
 497 *affairs, including the organization of such unit's school board and selection of officers, each*
 498 *district shall be entitled to one vote for each 16 pupils residing in that district and enrolled in*
 499 *schools under the administrative unit. A balance of 8 or more students shall entitle that district*
 500 *to an additional vote. A balance of fewer than 8 students shall have no net effect on a district's*
 501 *vote. Enrollments shall be based on the average daily membership in residence of each district*
 502 *for the school year which ended in the preceding June. Weighted votes shall only be used upon*
 503 *the demand of a majority of the members of any board present and voting in the school*
 504 *administrative unit. The school board members present at a school administrative unit school*
 505 *board meeting shall be entitled to cast the entire number of votes assigned to their school*
 506 *districts, provided that each representative present shall be entitled to a proportionate share of*
 507 *the total to be cast as provided in RSA 194-C:7.”*

508 Mr. O’Keefe asked for the purpose for weighted request.

509 Ms. Taylor replied due to the fact that are trying to vote on a SAU #39 platform for something
 510 that affects individual boards which have been elected to represent their individual schools.

511 Ms. Kuzsma questioned if this is physically present or present in the meeting.

512 Mr. Steel replied, present in the meeting.

513 Ms. Kuzsma added that the AMS students that reside in Mont Vernon are included in the Mont
514 Vernon vote per the NHSBA Attorney.

515 **Mr. O’Keefe asked the Board for a roll call vote for weighted voting. He started with the**
516 **ASB first. Kuzsma-No, Gauthier- No, Conklin-No, Behm- No, Gruzdien- No, Grondstra-**
517 **No, Facey-No, Chen- No, Coughlan-No, Taylor- Yes, Torres-No, Grund, No, Lawrence-No,**
518 **Eckhoff-No, St. Denis-No, Hinckley- Not present and O’Keefe- No.**

519 Ms. Grudzien commented that a later start will be more difficult for working parents. She
520 suggested looking at dismissing the children earlier and would like to see a plan come forward.

521 Ms. Grund commented that she would like to see the academic time for the 9th and 10th grade to
522 be added in.

523 **Mr. O’Keefe called for a roll call vote: Kuzsma-Yes, Gauthier- Yes, Conklin-Yes, Behm-**
524 **Yes, Gruzdien- Yes, Grondstra-Yes, Facey-Yes, Chen- Yes, Coughlan-Yes, Taylor- No,**
525 **Torres-Yes, Grund- Yes, Lawrence-Yes, Eckhoff-Yes, St. Denis-Yes, Hinckley- Not present**
526 **and O’Keefe- Yes.**

527 **Mr. Coughlan motioned to reauthorize the Superintendent to take any actions he deems**
528 **reasonability necessary to address the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus to our students,**
529 **staff, and community including but not limited to, modifying the SAU’s Calendar and/or**
530 **the manner of delivery of educational services, and consistent with all applicable statutes,**
531 **rules, and regulations. Ms. Kuzsma seconded the motion.**

532 Mr. O’Keefe asked for discussion.

533 Ms. Grund asked if this will cover staff changes as well.

534 Mr. O’Keefe replied it is not for the Superintendent to do anything drastic but an order to provide
535 the Superintendent that level of permission and authority from the Board during the Covid- 19
536 Pandemic.

537 Mr. Chen asked about the decisions to change color status is critical. He would like to see more
538 clarity on the criteria that will be used. He would not support anyone individual to make that
539 universal decision by themselves. He noted that in the future, it is something that he is very
540 concerned about.

541 Mr. Steel replied that communication is key. There is a pool of data and he has to decide based
542 on that. They will use a Dashboard, but it is very much an administrative judgement. He is
543 looking for Board feedback and for them to get involved. He is not taking it lightly.

544 Mr. O’Keefe commented that they need to have clear and concise directives, but they do need to
545 empower their administrators.

546 Ms. Taylor remarked that the board members are not advisors nor employees of the district. The
547 policy is too broad and not justified. There were no school board meetings over the summer with

548 little to no communication to the Board. A broad policy is handing over their responsibility that
549 they were elected for.

550 Mr. Grondstra remarked that with the data there are will be a margin of error. He asked if it was
551 possible to establish bands of data. If trends are going up but they are still in the Yellow status,
552 maybe they can think about transitioning to Orange. He suggested using that to figure out the
553 best path forward.

554 Ms. Gruzdien added that she did feel included in this plan and commended all who worked on
555 this plan. Chair, Ms. Kuzsma, also sent communications as well. She gave her full support for
556 Superintendent Steel to confer with the appropriate board(s) in making financial decisions.

557 Mr. Chen agreed with Mr. Grondstra and mentioned there are ways of analyzing data. These are
558 critical decisions and affect the community. He added that this policy is not about Superintendent
559 Steel, it could be a different administrator.

560 Ms. Gruzdien replied that this policy is about Superintendent Steel.

561 Mr. Chen disagreed; it is about a generalized policy for whoever is in that position. He
562 mentioned that he is in favor of creating a Dashboard, it is a necessary facet of going through this
563 process.

564 Ms. Behm commented that there has been a lot of communication with a lot of transparency. If it
565 changes then that is a different conversation.

566 Mr. Coughlan remarked that this is not a policy but a continuation of authority. Some of the
567 things in this process are very simple. He added that they do not know enough to operate in this
568 mode, unless it is under the Governor's directive.

569 Ms. Lawrence mentioned that everything has been transparent and asked if the board can
570 consider his strengths when making the decision.

571 Ms. Taylor remarked that the Board is not fulfilling their role and this is too broad and handing
572 everything over to the Superintendent.

573 Ms. Facey added that this is not a policy.

574 **Mr. O'Keefe called for a roll call vote: Kuzsma-Yes, Gauthier- Yes, Conklin-Yes, Behm-**
575 **Yes, Gruzdien- Yes, Grondstra-Yes, Facey-Yes, Chen- No, Coughlan-Yes, Taylor- No,**
576 **Torres-Yes, Grund- Yes, Lawrence-Yes, Eckhoff-Yes, St. Denis-Yes, Hinckley- Not present**
577 **and O'Keefe- Yes. (14-2-0) Motion passed.**

578 Mr. O'Keefe asked Ms. Kuzsma if she would like to discuss the Emergency Policy on Personal
579 Protective Measures.

580 Ms. Kuzsma remarked that in the beginning of the policy they have added the reasons why.
581 Below that are the mask and face covering requirements and following are the testing
582 notification requirements. All boards will be reviewing this policy every quarter. They do not
583 have to vote on it each time. The Chair may ask for more information monthly. They have had
584 legal counsel review this policy.

585 Mr. O’Keefe asked for clarification on what Ms. Kuzsma would like to do for the policy.

586 Mr. Steel suggested that they have it as a first reading tonight and then go to the individual
587 boards next week.

588 Ms. Lawrence added that there are student athletes that drive, and they did not address that in
589 this policy.

590 Mr. Steel replied that he would like to research that. He is not comfortable with a student driving
591 other students home from away games.

592 Mr. Eckhoff asked about insurance and questioned mask designs. Should staff have the authority
593 to ask students to switch into a different mask.

594 Ms. Kuzsma read from the policy #6. *“The Superintendent or his/her designee, with input from
595 the building nurse, will establish mask and/or face covering definitions, style guidelines, and
596 efficacy requirements based on CDC and NH DHHS, and other appropriate guidelines.”*

597 Mr. Eckhoff noted that it could be like an offensive tee-shirt and Superintendent Steel will not be
598 in the building every day.

599 Mr. Conklin added that it states “his/her designee”

600 Ms. Grund asked about #4. *“The District shall endeavor to maintain a supply of masks for
601 students and staff who do not have access to a mask or cloth face covering”* and under Duration
602 *“or the Board determines that there is no longer a substantial risk that unmasked persons will
603 present a hazard to themselves or others in the school setting, whichever event is the latter.*

605 She questioned if there is a mask shortage will they have enough. She also noted her concern
606 with the language under Duration. If the Governor rescinds his policy, she would prefer it go to
607 the Board.

608 Ms. Kuzsma replied that the Governor could supersede their decision and make them mandatory
609 it clears up who has the final say. It is the latter event.

Ms. Grund added that she wants to make sure that they always have masks for those in need.

610 Mr. O’Keefe mentioned that Principal Sarfde has asked the MV community for donations of
611 PPE. They have received quite a few and they would be happy to share to those in need.

612 Ms. Taylor remarked that the NHIAA recommended that parents drive their own students. She
613 will look for more information to back it up.

614 Mr. St. Denis mentioned that there are students that cannot wear masks due to a health issue. He
615 questioned if it needed to be worded on a building to building level.

618 Mr. Gauthier responded that he believes that it is the natural teaching environment with students
619 with paraprofessionals.

620 **Ms. Kuzsma motioned to move the Emergency Policy on Personal Protective Measures to**
621 **the individual boards for a second reading. Ms. Facey seconded the motion.**

622 Mr. O'Keefe asked for discussion.

623 There were no comments or questions.

624 **Mr. O'Keefe called for a roll call vote: Kuzsma-Yes, Gauthier- Yes, Conklin-Yes, Behm-**
625 **Yes, Gruzdien- Yes, Grondstra-Yes, Facey-Yes, Chen- Yes, Coughlan-Yes, Taylor- No,**
626 **Torres-Yes, Grund- Yes, Lawrence-Yes, Eckhoff-Yes, St. Denis-Yes, Hinckley- Not present**
627 **and O'Keefe- Yes. (15-1) Motion passed.**

628 Mr. O'Keefe asked Superintendent Steel for any other agenda items.

629 Superintendent Steel replied no; he does not have any other agenda items. He emphasized his
630 great appreciation for the Board and their thoughtful comments and questions.

631 Chairman O'Keefe commended Superintendent Steel and his team

631 VII. Public Comment II of II

633 No Public Comment

634 VIII. Meeting Adjourned

635 **Mr. O'Keefe adjourned the meeting at 9:55PM.**

