

## SAU #39 Board

Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Meeting Minutes- Approved 02 18 2021

## Attendees:

Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant Superintendent, Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student Services, and Michele Croteau- SAU #39 Business Administrator

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

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

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Chair- Pim Grondstra, Vice Chair- Amy Facey, Secretary- Stephanie Grund, Steve Coughlan, George Torres, John Glover and Laura Taylor.

Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

Public: Community Members

## I. SAU #39 Chair Opening

**Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, Chair of the SAU #39 School Board, called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.**

Today, we will be conducting a school board meeting of the SAU #39 Board.

Before we get started, I'll read through a checklist to ensure that the meeting that we are holding is in compliance with the Right-to-Know Law.

As chairperson of the SAU #39 Board, I find that due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order Number #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 and its extensions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order.

In accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that:

1. We are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possible by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the committee and selected legislative staff have the ability to communicate contemporaneously in this meeting through this platform. And the public has access to contemporaneously watch and or listen to the meeting on Zoom and via phone by following the directions and links provided on our website: [www.sau39.org](http://www.sau39.org).

- 39  
40 2. We have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.  
41  
42 3. We are providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting  
43 if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem, please email  
44 [awallace@sau39.org](mailto:awallace@sau39.org).  
45  
46 4. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting will be adjourned and  
47 rescheduled.  
48  
49 5. Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.  
50  
51 6. Finally, let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states  
52 their presence please also state where they are and if anyone else is in the room with you  
53 during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know Law.  
54

55 Roll Call: Kuzsma- home and alone, Gauthier- Home and alone, Behm- Home and alone,  
56 Gruzdien- Home and alone, Conklin- Car and alone, Grondstra- Car and alone, Facey- Home and  
57 alone, Coughlan- Home and alone, Taylor- Home and alone, Torres- Work and alone, Grund-  
58 Home and alone, Glover- Home and alone, Eckhoff- home and alone, O'Keefe- Home and alone,  
59 Hinckley- Home and alone, St. Denis- Home and alone.  
60

## 61 II. Public Comment I of II

62  
63 Chairman O'Keefe asked the members of the public who wish to address the Board to use the  
64 "raise your hand" feature.  
65

66 No Public Comment  
67

## 68 III. Correspondence

69  
70 Mr. O'Keefe noted that there is an email from Ms. Marilyn Gibson, 166 Mack Hill Rd  
71 in Amherst, NH that he would like to place into the record.  
72

73 ***From:*** Marilyn Gibson <[mgibson@ccamherst.org](mailto:mgibson@ccamherst.org)>  
74 ***Subject:*** SAU Board meeting Jan 25th  
75 ***Date:*** January 24, 2021 at 12:37:52 PM EST  
76 ***To:*** Adam Steel <[asteel@sprise.com](mailto:asteel@sprise.com)>, [sokeefe@sau39.org](mailto:sokeefe@sau39.org)  
77

78 *Dear Adam and Stephen,*  
79

80 *My question that concerns the SAU budget is that of the 2nd assistant superintendent. My*  
81 *perspective is that it is not a necessary position for the numbers of and the student population, as*  
82 *well as the fact that there are numerous "leaders" or "curriculum coordinators" in the*  
83 *district. (I may have mislabeled these.) What is proposed for the 2nd super is already being*  
84 *performed. If a 2nd is deemed necessary, then the "curriculum coordinators" should be*

85 *expunged. (At the moment, I am not presenting the educational foundations that are significant*  
 86 *to support a well-oiled machine.) If need be, this could be addressed at the school district*  
 87 *deliberative.*

88  
 89 *Due to the economic climate of our nation, and the fact that citizens of Amherst have lost jobs,*  
 90 *become more dependent on local charities, and some facing eviction, the fiscal step for SAU (as*  
 91 *well as the SAU39. MVB, and ASD) would be to exercise constraint.*

92  
 93 *I would greatly appreciate that you bring my concern to the SAU meeting.*

94  
 95 *Thank you for your consideration of this matter at hand.*

96  
 97 *Marilyn Gibson*

98  
 99 --

100 *Marilyn Gibson*  
 101 *ACC*  
 102 *Church School Coordinator”*

103  
 104 IV. NH Governor’s Emergency Order

105  
 106 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, discussed that on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, the Governor has issued  
 107 an Emergency Order #83. Each of you will hear this tonight at your individual board meetings  
 108 tonight or tomorrow. For the sake of brevity, he will briefly review this tonight.

109  
 110 Today the Board Chairs, Selectboard Chairs, and Moderators for the 5 entities met and discussed  
 111 the Emergency Order. A consensus was made among that group and then needs to be discussed  
 112 at the individual board level and either accepted or rejected. This would allow the individual  
 113 Boards to postpone the Deliberative Sessions from February and March to May and June. The  
 114 dates that they came up with are May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Amherst) , 4<sup>th</sup> (Souhegan) and 5<sup>th</sup> ( Mont Vernon) with  
 115 a Election Day of Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The filing period for candidates for office remains the same  
 116 and the term of people sitting in office is extended.

117  
 118 It is important that they all move in the same direction. It is the hope that they all move in  
 119 unison. There will be more discussion at the Amherst and Souhegan meetings tonight and Mont  
 120 Vernon tomorrow.

121  
 122 He will be happy to answer any questions.

123  
 124 Mr. O’Keefe opened up the floor for questions.

125  
 126 Mr. Gauthier inquired about postings for employment.

127  
 128 Mr. Steel replied that they will not officially be able to hire them until they have funds secured.  
 129 Administration has met today, and they discussed posting going through the hiring process and  
 130 disclose to those candidates the reality of the situation. Those are only in the very specific

131 situations where it is a new position that is in the proposed budget and not represented in the  
 132 default budget.

133  
 134 There were no other questions.

135  
 136 V. Non- Public Session

137 **Ms. Kuzsma motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91 A:3 II (b) and (c) at 6:12**  
 138 **PM. Mr. Coughlan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

139 **Roll Call: Kuzsma- Yes, Gauthier- Yes, Behm- Yes, Gruzdien- Yes, Conklin- Yes,**  
 140 **Grondstra- Yes, Facey- Yes, Coughlan- Yes, Taylor- Yes, Torres- Yes, Grund- Yes,**  
 141 **Glover- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes, and St. Denis- Yes.**

142

143 Other persons present during nonpublic session: Adam Steel – Superintendent, Amina Fazlic –  
 144 Director of Human Resources, Steve Chamberlin – Candidate

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

147 Interview and discussion with the Assistant Superintendent candidate.

148 Ms. Sarah Lawrence joined the meeting at 6:27pm.

149 VI. Public Session

150 **Mr. Coughlan motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 6:49PM. Ms. Kuzsma seconded the**  
 151 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

152 **Roll Call: Kuzsma- Yes, Gauthier- Yes, Behm- Yes, Gruzdien- Yes, Conklin- Yes,**  
 153 **Grondstra- Yes, Facey- Yes, Coughlan- Yes, Taylor- Yes, Torres- Yes, Grund- Yes,**  
 154 **Glover- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes, Lawrence- Yes and St. Denis- Yes.**

155

156 Mr. Steel discussed that he is placing into nomination a position that is in the proposed budget  
 157 and waiting to be filled as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. There was a committee made up of teachers, school  
 158 board members, and students and they went through an extensive interviewing process with 9  
 159 candidates and 3 finalists and 2 ultimately interviewed by himself and the 4 Board Chairs.

160

161 The result of that is the nomination of Mr. Steve Chamberlin for the next Assistant  
 162 Superintendent for the SAU #39. Mr. Chamberlin is currently the Superintendent for the  
 163 Hopkinton School District where he spent the past 22 years among other position in NH. He has  
 164 a passion for magnificent instruction and a passion for making all things better for their students.

165

166 He placed into nomination, Mr. Steve Chamberlin for Assistant Superintendent for the SAU #39  
 167 with a starting salary of \$125,000 and a three-year term.

168

169 **Ms. Behm motioned to approve the nomination of Mr. Steve Chamberlin for Assistant**  
170 **Superintendent for the SAU #39 with a starting salary of \$125,000 and a three-year term.**  
171 **Ms. Kuzsma seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**  
172

173 Mr. O’Keefe asked for board discussion.

174  
175 No Discussion

176  
177 **Roll Call: Kuzsma- Yes, Gauthier- Yes, Behm- Yes, Gruzdien- Yes, Conklin- Yes,**  
178 **Grondstra- Yes, Facey- Yes, Coughlan- Yes, Taylor- Yes, Torres- Yes, Grund- Yes,**  
179 **Glover- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes, Lawrence- Yes and St. Denis- Yes.**

180  
181 The Board welcomed Mr. Chamberlin.

182  
183 Mr. Chamberlin replied that he is humbled and excited to be part of the community.

184  
185 VII. Public Comment II of II

186  
187 No Public Comment

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189 VIII. Meeting Adjourned

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191 **Ms. Facey adjourned the meeting. Ms. Kuzsma seconded the motion. The vote was**  
192 **unanimous, motion passed.**

193  
194 **Roll Call: Kuzsma- Yes, Gauthier- Yes, Behm- Yes, Gruzdien- Yes, Conklin- Yes,**  
195 **Grondstra- Yes, Facey- Yes, Coughlan- Yes, Taylor- Yes, Torres- Yes, Grund- Yes,**  
196 **Glover- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes, Lawrence- Yes and St. Denis- Yes.**

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