

Souhegan School Board

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Meeting Minutes Approved 02 15 2021

Attendees:

Administrative Team: Adam Steel.

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

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.
2. We have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.
3. We are providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem, please email awallace@sau39.org.
4. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.
5. Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

6. Finally, let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence please also state where they are and if anyone else is in the room with

Steve Coughlan – Home and alone, Amy Facey, Home and alone, Stephanie Grund – Home and alone, Laura Taylor – Home and alone, Pim Grondstra – Home and alone

Steve Coughlan discussed the purpose of the NH School Board Delegate Assembly for all board members to understand what we are voting on today. As a board, we are providing our representative to the delegate assembly, Laura Taylor, with guidance as how she should vote to support or not support the resolutions presented to the delegate assembly.

The first resolution presented was #7 submitted by the ConVal School Board regarding COVID-19 Funding.

The Chair asked for a vote by school board member whether they were in support of Resolution #7.

Pim Grondstra – No, Steve Coughlan – Yes, Amy Facey – No, John Glover – Yes, Stephanie Grund – Yes, Laura Taylor – No.

Discussion of how a tie will work. Amy Facey will ask the NHSBA Executive Board on how Laura should vote at the delegate assembly as we have a tie.

The second resolution presented was #8 submitted by the ConVal School Board regarding Last-Mile Broadband.

The Chair asked for a vote by school board member whether they were in support of Resolution #8.

Pim Grondstra – Yes, Steve Coughlan – Yes, Amy Facey – Yes, John Glover – Yes, Stephanie Grund – Yes, Laura Taylor – Yes

The third resolution presented was #9 submitted by the Raymond School Board regarding reinstating full school building aid funding to levels greater than state appropriations prior to the 2011 school building aid moratorium.

The Chair asked for a vote by school board member whether they were in support of Resolution #9.

Pim Grondstra – Yes, Steve Coughlan – Yes, Amy Facey – Yes, John Glover – Yes, Stephanie Grund – Yes, Laura Taylor – Yes

The fourth resolution presented was #10 submitted by the Monadnock School Board regarding equity-based inclusive education.

Discussion involved supporting the resolution written by the Monadnock School Board or the alternative language written by the NHSBA Board of Directors.

The Chair asked for a vote by school board member whether they were in support of Resolution #10.

Pim Grondstra - Support Alternative language, Steve Coughlan – Support Monadnock language, Amy Facey – Support Alternative language, John Glover – Support Alternative language, Stephanie Grund – Support Alternative language, Laura Taylor – Support Alternative language

The fifth resolution presented was #11 submitted by the Monadnock School Board regarding the concept that the State of New Hampshire should define the calculation of inter-district charges when students are tuitioned to an alternative district.

The Chair asked for a vote by school board member whether they were in support of Resolution #11.

Pim Grondstra – No, Steve Coughlan – No, Amy Facey – No, John Glover – No, Stephanie Grund – No, Laura Taylor – No

The sixth resolution presented was #12 submitted by the Oyster River School Board. “NHSBA values and respects student and staff privacy. New Hampshire state law should enable school to require students who attend classes remotely to participate through video when enabling technology is provided. Schools should also provide tools that protect the privacy of the location and other people in the environment where the student is remotely learning.”

The Chair asked for a vote by school board member whether they were in support of Resolution #12.

Pim Grondstra – No, Steve Coughlan – No, Amy Facey – No, John Glover – No, Stephanie Grund – No, Laura Taylor – No

The seventh resolution presented was #13 submitted by the Nottingham School Board. “The Nottingham School Board opposes changes in the IDEA allocation calculations resulting in funds being disbursed directly to the school district in which the child is registered (in towns which do not have high schools) and not to the student’s residence. The Nottingham School Board calls for the immediate return of prior method of calculations for IDEA federal and state funds as well as maintaining this commitment in the future to keep any and all funds distributed to the student’s town of residence.”

Because the resolution was submitted passed the required deadline, the delegate assembly will decide whether to bring this resolution to the floor for a vote. If the resolution does come

forward for a vote, the board discussed the meaning of the motion. Do we feel the funds should go to the school district of the student or the town of residence? All board members expressed their support that the funds go to the school district the students attend.

If voted on, then the Souhegan Cooperative School Board does not support this resolution.

The eighth resolution presented was #14 submitted by the Manchester School Committee. The proposed resolution states that the

“1. School Administrative Units (SAU’s) should be held harmless during the 2021-2022 fiscal year for differentiated aid

2. Differentiated aid for FY 2021-2022 should be based upon free and reduced meal numbers from FY 2019-2020.

3. The New Hampshire School Boards Association will make this a priority in its lobbying efforts during the upcoming NH legislative session.”

Because the resolution was submitted passed the required deadline, the delegate assembly will decide whether to bring this resolution to the floor for a vote. If the resolution does come forward for a vote, the board discussed the meaning of the motion.

Because differentiated aid is based on prior year information and in this time of COVID it has been difficult to get families to complete paperwork, yet free meals are being provided to all students, the calculation of differentiated aid will easily be skewed compared to prior years. All school board members expressed support of this motion, if it is brought to the floor.

The School Board Chair asked everyone to please review last year’s presentation for Deliberative Session and start making changes and edits so we are prepared for Monday, January 25, 2021 meeting.

Amy Facey Motioned to Adjourn the meeting at 9:36pm. John Glover seconded the motion. All members were in favor.