

MINUTES
SAU 39 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2010
Souhegan High School Annex, Room A222

Present:

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Howard Brown, Steve Coughlan, Pam Coughlin, Chris Janson, Jeanne Ludt, and Mary Lou Mullens

Amherst School Board: Peg Bennett, Lucienne Foulks, Nancy Head and Peter Maresco

Mont Vernon School Board: Trevor Girard and Bruce Schmidt

Administrative Team: Nicole Heimarck, Dr. Mary Jennings, Jim Miner, and Renea Sparks

Staff: Jim Bosman, Porter Dodge

Public: Rick Katzenberg

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

ATTENDANCE

Chris Janson called the board meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER –
REGULAR MEETING
II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Recognition of Service – Dan Foley – Chris Janson took time to recognize Chair of the SAU 39 Board last year, Dan Foley. Dan was also a Souhegan School Board member for three years.

Dan Foley thanked the board very much and said it was a pleasure serving as Chair for the past year.

Chris Janson introduced the new board members – Howard Brown who is a former Mont Vernon School Board member and is now a Souhegan School Board member.

Chris also introduced Lucienne Foulks who is new to the Amherst School Board.

Chris Janson invited comments from the Public and Rick

III. PUBLIC TIME

FINAL Minutes of March 25, 2010, SAU 39 Board Meeting

Katzenberg, Coach of the Girl's Tennis Team read from a prepared statement entitled "How can SAU 39 show it really cares about the health of its children?" A copy of this will be included with these board minutes upon their approval.

Jeanne Ludt said the handout Rick provided requires more than a cursory look and suggested this topic be a future agenda item. It was agreed to put this topic on a future agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Nancy Head to accept the A. Minutes 1. January 28, 2010, B. Treasurer's Report, C. Transfer, and D. Retirement – Franceen Lupa. Peg Bennett seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion with three abstentions, Pam Coughlin, Howard Brown, and Lucien Foulks. (9-0-3)

A. Grant Proposal – Brick School Belfry Repair – Anne Krantz from the Heritage Commission told board members they were coming before the board to get their support in repairing the Belfry at the Brick School.

V. PRESENTATIONS

Ann explained they need the SAU 39's signature on the Grant Application they are submitting. The Grant they are applying for is for \$10,000, which is also the maximum amount.

Ann told board members they had Mr. Fiefield from Canterbury quote the job to repair the Belfry in 2008 and his price was \$26,400.

Ann told the board they were looking for the SAU 39 to cover the remaining cost of the project, \$16,400 out of the maintenance account.

Ann said they are hopeful to get the Grant, and it will be

awarded on June 1st.

Nancy Head asked if they could hear from Jim Miner on this project.

Jim Miner said now is the time to repair the Belfry; the work that needs to be done is mostly facial work, not structural issues. Jim said he thinks now is the time to move on this project.

Dr. Jennings explained beginning with the FY10-FY11 budget and the new SAU 39 lease agreement; they will be receiving \$30,000 a year that will go towards maintenance and repairs for the Brick School building. Dr. Jennings said the Belfry repairs fit in with the new lease agreement.

Trevor Girard asked what the odds are for getting the Grant. Ann said she has no idea, however, she is hopeful.

Bruce Schmidt asked if there was anything higher on the priority list that the repairs to the Belfry would be taking the place of.

Jim Miner said the only thing on the priority list that might be higher would be the heating system, however, he thinks they can do some of the smaller items on the list first prior to the heating system.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to support the Amherst Heritage Commission in support of the grant to repair the Brick School Belfry. Mary Lou Mullens seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (12-0-0)

- B. Student Led Conferences – Dr. Jennings spoke about the similarities between districts and told board members students and faculty from the Middle School and High School came out tonight to

show what the similarities are like at each of these buildings.

At the Amherst Middle School, Dick Vassar, Cheryl Alison, Nancy Monks, and Beth Chestnut spoke about Student Led Conferences.

They explained how parent conferences are no longer just for parents. They said after attending a workshop on Student Led Conferences, they piloted the program in their classes and met with 80% of the parents within two days.

In Student Led Conferences, students create goals for themselves.

When the parents come in for their conference, the student leads the conference, they explain why they have the grades they have, they take the onus off the teacher to explain their status in the class. The student led conference takes place at the same time as the regular conferences do.

The teachers move around the room as the students are leading their conference. There are four separate areas in the classroom where 8-12 conferences are being held at the same time.

Students are responsible for their learning and they accept ownership for their own learning.

Students are given a script to follow, a lot of planning and preparation goes into the student led conferences.

Two 7th grade teams tried the Student Led Conferences this year and had 100% attendance by parents.

Dick Vassar said it would be nice if a portfolio could follow each student from 6th to 7th to 8th grade.

Nancy Head asked if she could see what the script looked

like and one of the students passed her script around for the board to see.

Peg Bennett said she thinks it is really great that the staff took the time to go to a summer seminar and she said she has heard from parents that they really liked this format.

Dick said when they used this format two years ago, they had 80% attendance from parents and this year they had 90% attendance.

Porter Dodge said he heard from many parents that they enjoyed this format and students thought it was great as well.

From Souhegan High School, Vince Tom, Sarah Hooper and students spoke about Teacher Led Parent Facilitated Conferences.

Board members learned prior to the conference, there is a lot of prep and practice.

Howard Brown said he thought it was great to see the student present to the parents, he said it meant more coming from the student.

Peter Maresco said he didn't get to meet the other teachers at the high school and he thinks this approach took away from it a bit.

Jeanne Ludt said she had attended a recent coffee and she heard from parents that they felt like they couldn't hear what was really going on with their student.

Sarah introduced two students from the high school, Ally and Alex LaPointe.

Ally explained based on the work she has done over the past two years, she has significantly improved her

organizational skills.

Dr. Jennings told board members senior projects are coming up very soon, and she invited board members to drop in on them if they so choose.

- C. Proposal – Contracting out Food Services Management – Dr. Jennings told board members with the approval of Franceen Lupa's retirement effective July 1, 2010, she was proposing to contract out Food Services Management.

Dr. Jennings said upon learning of Franceen's plans to retire, she spoke to the four board chairs and let them know she was interested in contracting out Food Services.

Dr. Jennings said two-thirds of New Hampshire districts are contracting out Food Services. Dr. Jennings said they are not looking to get rid of any of the current cafeteria employees; they are just looking to get someone to manage all of the cafeteria employees. Dr. Jennings said they are just looking to get someone to take over what the SAU and Franceen have been doing.

Dr. Jennings referred board members to p. 17 in their board packets. Board members received a handout in their packets entitled Food Service Management – Proposal for Contracted Service. A recommended schedule was provided.

Based on the schedule as outlined, Dr. Jennings said she would look to make a recommendation to the board on May 27, 2010.

Dr. Jennings also provided a recommended committee make-up.

Mary Lou Mullens asked how hiring a Food Service Management Company would be different than having a

person like Franceen.

Dr. Jennings said by hiring a Food Service Management Company, they would have more buying power, thus obtain better pricing, etcetera.

Lucienne Foulks asked what the length of the contract would be and Dr. Jennings said she didn't know yet, however they could write a length of time in the RFP.

Trevor Girard suggested they look at the other option as well, hiring an in house replacement for Franceen Lupa. Trevor said we might loose a good candidate if we fail to advertise the position.

It was agreed, the position would be posted and an RFP would be created.

Dr. Jennings asked if three board members from the SAU39 were willing to serve on the Contracted Food Service Management Committee. Nancy Head volunteered to serve as the Amherst Board representative, Bruce Schmidt volunteered to serve as the Mont Vernon representative and Howard Brown volunteered to serve as the Souhegan representative.

- A. 2010-11 School Board Calendar – Meetings schedule – Board members were given a copy of the Board Meeting Calendar for August-November 2010 in their board packets.

Dr. Jennings told board members they were switching the weeks the Amherst and Souhegan Boards meet. Beginning in September 2010, the Souhegan Board will meet on the first Thursday of the month and the Amherst Board will meet on the third Thursday of the month. The Mont Vernon Board will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month and the SAU39 Board will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month.

In August the SAU39 Board will meet on August 17, 2010.

Dr. Jennings told board members on August 16th and 17th, the administrators are involved in a two-day workshop and at the end of the workshop on August 17, 2010, the administrators will have an evening meeting with Board Members and dinner.

Board members discussed the possibility of rotating the weeks each board meets on a yearly basis.

A. Consistencies among districts – follow up to SAU January Meeting –

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Jennings reminded board members they had their initial discussion and questions were raised from the Case Study they reviewed entitled “Como Esta Curricula e SAU39?”

A copy of the Case Study along with the Board Discussion follow-up was provided in board member packets.

Dr. Jennings provided a handout, which outlined future discussions about “Consistencies/Inconsistencies Among Districts.” On April 22, 2010, at the next SAU39 Board Meeting, Case Study 2 will be presented entitled “2002 Math Curriculum Review and Implementation. Also discussed will be the K-12 Curriculum.

The handout also highlighted what would be covered at board meetings on May 27, 2010, June 24, 2010, and August 17, 2010.

B. Policy JLCF Wellness – Board members received a copy of Policy JLCF, Wellness Policy.

Jeanne Ludt and Peg Bennett are on the Policy Review Committee and thoroughly reviewed the policy.

The policy has been updated to reflect the schools are responsible only for what they sell during school hours.

Bruce Schmidt asked that under Nutrition Guidelines Item B. be removed from the policy. It will be removed.

Each district will review and approve this policy at upcoming board meetings.

A motion was made by Pam Coughlin to adjourn the meeting. Trevor Girard seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. (12-0-0) The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

**VIII. REVIEW OF
MEETING/ADJOURN**