



KEENE HIGH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

OCTOBER 25, 2017

4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA

Members: Kevin Bazan, Valerie Cole, Sue Rice, Amanda Nordberg, Amy Hill, Heather Pelkey, Rebecca Truesdell, Erin Bonaparte, Nichole Pelkey, A. Genovese.


Members Present: K. Bazan, V. Cole, S. Rice, A. Nordberg, A. Hill, N. Pelkey, A. Genovese.

Commencement – The meeting began at 4:35 p.m.

I. Review September 26, 2017 Minutes -

Members reviewed the minutes and highlighted some topics that remain important.


II. Review Outcome of SAU #29 Meeting




K. Bazan noted that the meeting was well attended by SAU 29 staff. He noted that Jim Logan, principal, Rick Matte, Director of Pupil Services, Kristen Shroshine, Special Education Administrator for Keene High School and Rob Maley, Superintendent of SAU 29. Attending for the Winchester District was Valerie Cole, Kevin Bazan and A. Genovese.

Kevin explained the report Keene High will be providing soon and members expressed interest in seeing last year's report. Additionally, it was suggested that it would be helpful to get this year's report prior to the meeting with the School Board so there would be time to generate some questions and forward them along ahead of time so Keene officials would be able to answer them at the meeting.

Some questions were raised about North Campus. One question pertained to a rumor that it was going to close. SAU 29 was clear that this was only a rumor and did not know how that rumor got started but assured us that it was not true.




K. Bazan indicated considerable time was spent talking about how our students are doing there and how Val Carey can help to connect with curriculum,



professional development and our school calendars to take advantage of economy of scale to capitalize on opportunities to share ideas, resources and curriculum alignment coordination to provide students with a smooth transition from Winchester to Keene. There was considerable discussion of the benefits to all teachers if professional development were to be coordinated among all school districts.

K. Bazan also noted discussion about the SAU 29 School Year Calendar and how they are giving sending districts an opportunity to provide feedback on what the schedule might look like. Presently, Keene is setting up a committee to look at their Calendar and shared some results to date.

There was also discussion about some of the survey results: Start before or after Labor Day. ½ days verses full days for professional days and so on. There appears to be a 60/40 split regarding Labor Day start with 40% choosing after. In the scheme of things, that is a big number!




There was discussion about the After School Transportation, which is on Wednesday. V. Cole noted the library stays open to 5 P.M. to accommodate students waiting for transportation.


Also discussed with SAU 29 was their Website and what was available on it. Additionally, it was agreed that more links from their site to the Winchester site would be a benefit to students and parents in Winchester. It was suggested that perhaps a place on our website providing these links would make information more readily available to our parents.

There was a good discussion about how they recognize students and suggested that we might highlight the achievements of Keene High students living in Winchester by putting up posters to recognize them in our school. K. Bazan suggested this recognition could also be at School Board meetings.

Members of the Keene High Committee shared some of the successes and opportunities of Winchester students at Keene High School. Specific examples were shared. Again, it was noted that the Winchester School Board could place a spot on the agenda to recognize them.



It was noted at the SAU 29 meeting that the career center is a very successful program.




K. Bazan stated the principal was supportive and open to the possibilities eight-grade night being held in Winchester. January 23 is the orientation for 8th grade parents and students. Since this is an event for all sending districts this made sense for our students/parents to participate at Keene High.

K. Bazan suggested that we need to make this a big deal in our communication with parents in the hopes on improving attendance.

A. Genovese suggested that perhaps the Spring Orientation could include parents attending an evening orientation at the Winchester School. Additionally, A. Genovese is hopeful that better coordination of our calendar to Keene's will be achieved for next year.

There was a brief explanation of what the Interact Program is about: Interactive Math, all the things learned are set in a context so they have to apply them.


Students help out in many areas to provide all sorts of services. K. Bazan noted he is very interested in taking advantage of this service.



One Keene High Member asked if it would be possible to have the clubs in the morning instead of afternoon so transportation home is not an issue. The merits were discussed.

Another comment from a Keene High Committee member involved students taking comprehensive classes, instead of honors classes. One problem she noted with her own child is that Winchester doesn't give homework. This does not develop study habits and some students really struggle in the transition process. It was also noted by a parent of an incoming 9th grader on the Keene High Committee that students do not know their schedule before school starts and that causes anxiety. Students pick out courses and are unsure of what they are actually are going to have in the Fall.

It was also thought that when you go from Winchester to Keene you will not see your friends anymore but that turns out not to be true. You still have Winchester friends in classes.



Cheshire Center offers classes from 8 to 12 and you can choose classes, meet teachers and so on and this has helped.



III. Update on Career Center at Keene State College STEM

Susan Silk, STEM Coordinator at Keene State College was asked by V. Cole to contact the superintendent regarding the grant opportunity and the program. She would like to see more students involved. To his knowledge this has not happened yet but is looking forward to having a conversation.

IV. General Discussion

A number of items were briefly discussed, including:

There seems to be positive feedback from parents about Keene High School and how they have handled some challenging situations very well;

Transportation afterschool is good, however, how many students are taking advantage of it; and

Detention is handled on Wednesday so students can take the late bus home.



V. Next Meeting Dates – Reschedule

It was noted that both the November 22, 2017 and December 27, 2017 Keene High Committee meeting are scheduled when school is not in session.

The Committee decided to canceled these meetings and replace them with a meeting on December 13th at 4:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office.

Additionally, the Committee wanted to invite Keene High School Officials to attend the December 21st School Board meeting, if possible. The superintendent indicated he will pursue this request.

VI. Adjourn

Having no further business, the Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

