

Keene High Subcommittee Meeting  
Superintendent's Office  
September 26, 2017  
4:30 pm. – 5:30 p.m.

Present. K. Bazan, V. Cole, S. Rice, Becca Truesdell, A. Genovese

**I. Planning Agenda**

There was a brief discussion on how the agenda is generated for this meeting. The Superintendent offered to develop one and continue to take minutes. After discussion, it was agreed that unless there are known specific topics to discuss, the agenda will flow from the discussions in an informal manner. Superintendent will continue to record meeting.

**II. Defining the Purpose of the Subcommittee**

The Superintendent asked what the charge of the subcommittee was and the reason the subcommittee was formed. K. Bazan gave a very comprehensive account of the political landscape and climate regarding the relationship between Keene and Winchester. "When the dust settled" the Winchester School Board wanted to establish better communication between Keene High School and Winchester and improve upon the relationship. One charge of the subcommittee is to gain a better understanding of programs and services at Keene High how our students are performing. A yearly report is received to update the Winchester School Board.

**III. Engaging Winchester Students Attending Keene High School**

There was discussion about involving students in activities in Winchester, possibly as part of the required community service component to the curriculum. Examples shared were having students video Winchester School Board meetings (V. Cole will explore this initiative), Students return to talk with students about their experiences, Students volunteer at community, school events, and so on. It was also suggested that the Subcommittee develop a survey for Winchester students attending Keene High School take to get their input about their education and how prepared they felt they were in

entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade. It might help to email students from time to time alerting them of events happening in Winchester or other topics.

#### **IV. Expanding Keene High Subcommittee Membership**

The Subcommittee discussed expanding the Subcommittee membership and reviewed a list of employees presently at the school who expressed interest. There was a discussion on what the optimum size of the Subcommittee should be. Most felt 9 would be a good number and one member felt 11 or slightly larger would be workable. Subcommittee usually do not function well when membership is too large. There was discussion that the work of this Subcommittee was a bit usually in nature because it invites conversation from multiple perspectives. Although the Subcommittee does act on certain information, it is not necessarily and action-driven Subcommittee. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Subcommittee to appoint everyone who expressed interest. New members include:

Becca Truesdell (Speech/Language), Amanda Nordberg, Amy Hill, and Heather Pelkey (Classroom teachers), Erin Bonaparte (Paraprofessional). The Subcommittee is appreciative of these staff members volunteering to serve while trying to balance a busy workload. Everyone is invited to attend all meetings. However, if these staff members would like to coordinate attending on a rotating basis (two or three at a time) that will work as well. The Subcommittee is very flexible and looking forward to their participation. It was agreed that it would be ideal if some students were also able to participate in meetings.

#### **V. Potential Topics to Discuss at Upcoming Meeting**

Several members of the Keene High Committee will be attending a special meeting with SAU 29 on October 23 from 4:15 to 5:30. A brief brainstorming conversation resulted on what topics might be discussed. Some topics shared were: the new guidance system, AREA, and how the Two House System is working.

#### **VI. Other Agenda Items**

V. Cole expressed concern that only one student from Winchester participated in a Summer STEM program this past summer and

attempts to involve ACCESS students did not result in greater participation. Susan Silks runs the program and was the Director of the Career Center at Keene State College. She will be writing a STEM's grant and this is an opportunity Winchester to form a partnership and participate in the grant. The superintendent expressed interest in participating in this initiative and hopes to be able to reach out to Mrs. Silks to discuss the possibilities. V. Cole will get information for the superintendent to contact her.

#### **VII. Next Meeting**

The next on site meeting of the Keene High Committee is scheduled October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office. It will be moved to the Library if necessary.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A. Genovese, Superintendent