

School Board Meeting with NHSBA

Superintendent's Office

8/28/17

Present: Board Members: Valerie Cole, Kevin Bazan, Lindseigh Picard, Steve Thompson.

Also Attending: NHSBA Executive Director, Barrett Christina, Esq. Superintendent Dr. Alan D. Genovese

Kevin began the meeting at 4:40 PM.

The meeting took the format of questions and answers:

The Board inquired about the funding of kindergarten students. It was noted that if you offer full day kindergarten beginning in FY19 districts will need to report their enrollment on September 1. Potentially the district could receive \$00 dollars for full day students and may receive an additional 1,100 dollars or \$2,900 to help support the program.

School funding may be tied to KENO revenue and this may be problematic. It is not tied to adequacy otherwise by statute it will be required to be funded. Right now, it appears to be in a wait and see what happens. Communities that support KENO will help to drive the funding so there is not a clear understanding of how this may materialize.

The Board inquired about other legislation that may have implications for the district.

It was explained that there are a number of key people in political positions that support charter schools, parent vouchers, parent choice, etc.. so this may be something to watch as the year progresses.

One example given was Senate Bill 8, which allows districts to send students to private non-religious schools. There is also a hardship provisions that allows students to attend other public school and private school.

Since we have a tuition agreement with Keene this will presently, trump any requirements of this bill.

The Board inquired about any retirement legislation. It was explained that the bill to fund retirement died and the courts upheld several challenges that tried to get legislators to fund the retirement pension. There was a time that it was funded at 35%, then was cut to 25%, and then finally reduced to 0%.

It appears that there is a clear downshifting of costs to communities and the Board agreed that this would not be sustainable. State funding based on property taxes, smoking and liquor tax, and the enterprising tax is not sufficient to support governmental agencies. Something will eventually give.

The Board asked about possible new Charter schools opening up in the area. It was noted that there might be a new one in Keene. It was thought that CM Squared might be a charter school as well.

The Board inquired about the approval of policies and if there were suggestions on how the process could be streamlined.

It was noted that policies could be developed or reviewed and amended at the committee level and when appropriate the policy committee would bring it to the Board with a recommendation to approve.

The superintendent explained a process for dividing policies into categories for committee action. For example, some policies could be marked as reviewed and no revisions necessary, others might be recommended to be rescinded (and if there were done it is a good practice to keep the policy in the policy book for reference so people would see the date it was rescinded and would have the language of the original policy to refer to), some policies may be marked for slight revisions and this could be presented to the full Board and acted upon in a meeting, Some policies could be marked policy good but components of the policy have not been fully implemented (and these could be prioritized by the Board)

and new policies could be developed at the policy level with a method of communicating (updating) to the full Board along the way.

The superintendent indicated that it might be a good practice to begin a new policy at the Board level so there is complete transparency and if the public is interested in the policy, it might remain at that level for a while before being taken up at a policy committee meeting.

The Board may consider a first and second and third reading of policies before adoption to give the public more input but this is not required (unless there is a Board policy requiring these readings). A policy can be voted on the same night it is brought before the Board if so inclined.

The Board inquired about the value of Board goals and vision and mission (or guiding principles). It was noted that these are very helpful to keep the Board on task over a period since Board members can change and this will resist the temptation to constantly have initiatives become a moving target. Mr. Christina indicated he might be able to share some of these with the Board in the coming weeks.

The Board inquired about the value of a strategic plan. It was noted that having a document and include multiple strategic plans is extremely helpful and planning and achieving targets over time. Best practice is to have a plan to work from and again keeps the Board on task to move forward productively over time.

It was suggested that the Board might want to ask what the Board wants to see done in the district over the next few years. It was further suggested to start small and develop various aspects of the plan over time. For example, a capital improvement plan, a maintenance plan, and educational plan, a succession plan, and so on. Strategic plans help to drive policies, assessment of progress, and budget preparation. The mission and vision also helps in the development of a comprehensive strategic plan.

There was an inquiry about the is a best practice for minutes. It was noted that the minutes needs to show who was present, the topics discussed and any action taken. Detailed minutes about who said what is not required and could become problematic. It is important to capture all the salient points of the discussion for future reference. It was noted that SAU 79 takes minutes in a very productive and efficient manner that meet all the requirements of taking minutes of public meetings.

There was an inquiry of when to go into a non-meeting. It was noted that collective bargaining and consulting with an attorney are usually the two most frequently used citations to enter into non-meetings.

Non-public meetings are clearly defined in 91A II, a, b, c whenever dealing with personnel it appears the default is going into non-public.

Mr. Christina referred to the materials in the packet for roles and responsibilities of School Board members and materials for goal setting workshops.

It was noted that the workshop with the superintendent would not be possible on Friday due to conflicts in schedules. Alternative dates will be explored.

The workshop ended at 6:06 pm.