

Mascenic School Board Meeting Minutes

SAU Office

16 School Street, Greenville, NH 03048

10/5/2015

I. Organization - 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Earl Somero, Chairman, Jeff Salmonson, Jim Kingston, Tara Sousa, Ruthann Goguen, Superintendent, Tom Kelly, Tom Marshall, Marion Saari, Maureen DeGrenier, Executive Assistant, various community members.

Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome to attendees and invited attendees. *School Board Meeting Norms: Start/end on time, follow the agenda and avoid tangents, refrain from side conversations, respect and hear from all voices and assume best intentions, follow the chain of command.*

Agenda Adjustments

N/A

MOTION made by Mr. Jeff Salmonson to accept the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Tara Sousa. All members were in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Conversation initiated by the board on whether or not the agenda had to be accepted if there were no changes. The question was asked by Mr. Somero, and Mr. Salmonson responded that protocol should be to accept the agenda because public comment is based on the agenda items.

Date/Time Next Meeting: October 19, 2015 6:00 p.m.

Correspondence

N/A

Review/Approval of 9/14/2015 Working Session Minutes & 9/21/2015 Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Jim Kingston to accept the Working Session Minutes of 9/14/2015 as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Salmonson. All members were in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed 4-0-0.

9/21/2015

Mr. Salmonson requested under Policies section that the in the last sentence change Salmonson to Kingston.

Mr. Salmonson requested under New Business part 1 Facilities Use Waivers to remove the sentence “Mr. Salmonson stated New Ipswich recreation basketball is noticeably absent” from the motion.

MOTION made by Mrs. Tara Sousa to accept the Minutes of 9/21/2015 as amended. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Salmonson. All members were in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed 4-0-0.

II. Reports to the Board - to 6:30 p.m.

1. School Board Chair Report

Mr. Earl Somero stated he attended all the open house events at each of the schools. He was very impressed with excitement from all those in attendance. He stated he would like to commend the Principals, Assistant Principal’s, and staff for all their effort that went into the open house event.

2. Superintendent - Ruthann Goguen

My report is on Eduportal for the School Board to review. You also have a copy of my October newsletter. I am very pleased to see smooth transitions this year. NECAP Science scores are out. There is a chart in my report for the School Board to review. We are planning an in-service day focusing on data analysis for our staff members. DOE is coming to work with SpEd professionals. The Homeland Security grant was approved. I am pleased to hear good things coming from High School, we have 34 students who have applied to colleges. Guidance has colleges visiting the schools for onsite student visits. We have had several right-to-know requests recently. One is to review the School Board Minutes from 1994, 1995, and 1996; the other right-to-know is to review the extra-curricular stipends for the last 10 school years.

3. Student Services - Tom Kelly

Mr. Kelly stated that his report is noted on Eduportal. New Ipswich Police have received approval for the grant for Copsync. Initial meeting with the police has been conducted on how to implement the program. It will involve software installation as well as training for staff.

4. High School Principal - Tom Marshall

Parent conferences are scheduled for Thursday, October 8, from 6-8 p.m. Progress reports were issued last week. This led to a staff discussion on students who are academic risks, and how we can improve data. We are doing all we can to help students perform better. Mr. Jeff Salmonson asked, How are we advertising parent-teacher conferences? Mr. Marshall responded that he sent out an e-mail blast and it is on the signage outside school. Mr. Salmonson asked if it was on the website. Mr. Marshall responded, I’m sure it is, but cannot confirm.

5. Middle School Principal - John MacArthur

Mr. MacArthur wanted the Board to know that as of today, the BMS Girls’ Volleyball team is undefeated. My report is noted on Eduportal.

6. Elementary School Principal - Marion Saari

Mrs. Saari reported that on October 23, the Tiger program is scheduled for a bullying program at HHES. The Parent Group is helping us pay for this.

III. Unfinished Business - to 7:00 p.m.

1. Facilities Use Waiver - New Ipswich Recreation Basketball

Superintendent Goguen stated that the SAU is meeting with the new Recreation Director this week. Meeting has not occurred. Mr. Salmonson asked will the building security and cleanliness and other housekeeping items be addressed at this meeting. Superintendent Goguen responded that yes they were addressing those issues.

IV. New Business - to 7:20 p.m.

1. Smarter Balance Testing Discussion

Superintendent Goguen stated that there is information on Eduportal. The District has decided to schedule NWEA only twice per year, not 3 times as we had in previous years. We have decreased testing.

Mr. Jim Kingston asked if NWEA retains history and allows us to assess data. Superintendent Goguen stated that it only keeps data for 2 years. This data allows you to see student progress. Mr. Kingston asked does Smarter Balance retain history. Superintendent Goguen stated that Smarter Balance is a statewide assessment replacement for NECAP; because it is new, there have been bumps rolling it out. Preliminary data is viewable by teachers and administrators. Not viewable by public until November.

Mr. Kingston stated he was shocked when he looked at the amount of testing. I understand the reason to switch to a new test, what is the function of all these other tests. Superintendent Goguen responded NWEA is the test that administrators and teachers wanted to keep. Dibels is a progress monitoring tool. Information on student's reading ability for teacher's. It is a very quick assessment. Aimsweb is also a progress monitoring tool for grades K-8. Smarter Balance is replacing NECAP testing. We are still using NECAP for Science only.

Mr. Jim Kingston asked if NWEA and Aimsweb are overlapping tests? Principal Marion Saari responded Aimsweb does not replace NWEA. It is a quick snapshot in time to see if the student is ready to move on to the next learning segment.

Mr. Earl Somero said I have a question on the Opt Out Technical Advisory. We had 80-100 students who refused to take the test, although we do not have an Opt Out policy. Superintendent Goguen stated we respected parent's decision to refuse testing for their children. We are using this important test data, to see what skills students are mastering. We fully understand that the tests we provide are one snapshot of a student. Mr. Jim Kingston asked what is your intention this year with parent refusals? Superintendent Goguen responded that we will use the same process as last year.

Mrs. Tara Sousa stated that she is anxious to see the data that comes out and if it is useful or not. I think it will be enlightening to see our district as well as the rest of the state. I certainly would be willing to talk about Common Core again after we see that. Mr. Earl Somero stated that this is something that is done in the Spring and we do not know what is involved until we get there. Mr. Jeff Salmonson asked is one NWEA test is being removed? Mrs. Ruthann Goguen responded yes.

2. Discussion on Taping/Broadcasting Meeting

Mrs. Tara Sousa said this request came to her from someone in the public recently, but have heard it over the years. We would have to look into the logistics to accomplish this through community access television. Mrs. Sousa stated we probably don't have the set up to live stream, and would need to look into the technical issues of it. I personally think we should look into getting our regular business meetings open to the public which would be beneficial to those who do not have the ability to attend the meetings.

Mr. Earl Somero asked what is the cost? I think it is better to spend the money to put it towards programs for kids rather than to gain access to meetings for community members.

Mr. Jeff Salmonson stated that was my initial thought. Town meetings are covered by volunteers, but we know it is difficult to get volunteers. I would like to ask the IT department to give us feedback on the cost of the equipment to broadcast meetings. I would think it would cost \$5-7,000 for equipment/labor. I have some concerns since we are tasked by community members to lower the budget.

Mr. Jim Kingston stated that he agreed with having the IT dept look at this. Use of high school students in a media course may be an option. We want to make sure that we are looking at total costs. We don't want to spend a lot of money doing this. We have heard a lot of complaints about transparency. This is one way to ensure that everything we say and do are out there.

Mr. Earl Somero stated that he was not sure if community members knew that communication between board members is generally limited. Our discussions with each other, if we are in a public place and there is more than 2 of us, one member leaves. The law governing School Boards is strict.

Mr. Jim Kingston stated that he thought it should move forward for IT to complete a study on cost, and that it is important to recognize that this is not the legal public document. The minutes are the legal public document.

Mr. Earl Somero gave direction to Superintendent Goguen to have the study on cost on broadcasting future school board meetings move forward.

3. NED Pipeline Project Discussion

Cathy Gauvin sent letters to the board to find out publicly what our position would be. Mr. Earl Somero stated are there any comments?

Mr. Jeff Salmonson said that he has seen a lot of school boards in adjoining towns stating whether they are in opposition. They speak about being concerned for our kids. I look at this as an impact to our area and our health. I would like the Board to consider coming out publicly against the pipeline.

Mr. Jim Kingston said that was well stated. I am certainly in favor of us coming out against the pipeline.

Mrs. Tara Sousa stated she wished she had more time to look at both sides. I personally have heard concerns in Greenville. Our town is in opposition because of the water system. I think we can come out in opposition to it.

Mr. Earl Somero stated that he attended the meetings. Compressor station is near Boynton Middle School. It wouldn't hurt to show support for the people Mr. Earl Somero stated that he would like to suggest it be signed by all of the school board members.

MOTION made by Mr. Jeff Salmonson for the Chairman of the School Board to craft a letter in opposition to the pipeline. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jim Kingston. All members were in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed 4-0-0.

V. Public Comments - to 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment will be restricted to precise topics announced in advance. This means public comment will only be allowed on items in this weekly agenda.

Laurie Rautiola, New Ipswich

Mrs. Rautiola clarified her comments from a previous meeting about recording the meetings.

Mr. Jim Kingston made the suggestion that Laurie Rautiola contact our IT Director, Matt Ballou, directly through e-mail to send costs associated with recording devices.

Julie Lampinen, New Ipswich

Mrs. Lampinen stated that she had originally asked to be put on the agenda. Mrs. Lampinen read a letter of information to the School Board regarding Smarter Balanced testing. School Board members were sent copies of information presented.

Carolyn Cormier, New Ipswich

Mrs. Cormier commented on the testing periods and which time frame is valuable to teachers and parents.

VI. Policies - to 7:50 p.m.

VII. Personnel - to 8:00 p.m.

1. Retirement

Superintendent Goguen stated she had received a retirement letter from Kathy Chase, BMS Nurse, and is effective October 12, 2015.

MOTION made by Mr. Jim Kingston to accept the retirement of Kathy Chase, BMS Nurse, with regrets. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Salmonson. All members were in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed 4-0-0.

2. Recommendation for Part-Time OT

Superintendent Goguen would like to recommend Krista Vose as the part-time Occupational Therapist. Superintendent Goguen informed the School Board that the candidate who was recommended last week declined the position.

MOTION made by Mr. Jeff Salmonson to approve Krista Vose as the part-time Occupational Therapist. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Tara Sousa. All members were in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed 4-0-0.

3. Recommendation for Part-Time PT

Superintendent Goguen would like to recommend Elizabeth Ciancia as the part-time Physical Therapist.

MOTION made by Mr. Jim Kingston to approve Elizabeth Cianci as the part-time Physical Therapist. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Tara Sousa. All members were in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed 4-0-0.

4. Recommendation for School Nurse

Superintendent Goguen would like to recommend Emily Baker as the Boynton Middle School Nurse.

MOTION made by Mr. Jim Kingston to approve Emily Baker as the BMS Nurse. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Salmonson. All members were in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Jeff Salmonson asked if there was any reason to move to non-public regarding this topic, and Superintendent Goguen responded no.

VIII. Agenda Building - to 8:15 p.m.

1. New Ipswich Recreation Basketball Facility Use Waiver

IX. Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3, II (a-c)

MOTION made by Mrs. Tara Sousa to move to non-public session per RSA 91A:3 II (a). The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Salmonson. Roll call vote: Jim Kingston, yes; Jeff Salmonson, yes; Tara Sousa, yes; Earl Somero, yes. The vote was unanimous.

MOTION made by Mrs. Tara Sousa to move to non-public session per RSA 91A:3-II (c); the motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Salmonson. Roll call vote: Jim Kingston, yes; Jeff Salmsonson, yes; Tara Sousa, yes; Earl Somero, yes. The vote was unanimous.

MOTION made by Mrs. Tara Sousa to move to non-public session per RSA 91A:3-II (f); the motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Salmonson. Roll call vote: Jim Kingston, yes; Jeff Salmsonson, yes; Tara Sousa, yes; Earl Somero, yes. The vote was unanimous.

X. Adjournment

1. Process Observer Report Out

2. Motion to Adjourn to Non-Public at 6:47 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Maureen DeGrenier, Executive Assistant.