

Sullivan School Board

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2016

Present

School Board: Stephanie Jacques Kleine, Paul Bolduc, Mike Brooks, Stephanie Milotte,
Malinda Scherpa arrived at 7:15PM

Others: Ken Dassau, Toni Ellsworth

Public visitors: Nelson School Board will arrive at 7:30PM

Nelson Board: Kelly French, Sara Marean, Richard Popavic

Nelson Administrators: Rob Mallay (Superintendent of SAU 29)

Ron Upton - Principal

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by Stephanie JK.

Approval of Minutes

Motion Stephanie M motioned to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting from
February 17th, 2016

Second by Malinda.

No Discussion

Voice vote: Unanimous

Motion so passes and Minutes approved

Superintendent's Report - Ken Dassau

None

Treasurer's Report - Toni Ellsworth

- Toni reported that she was going to purchase the accounting software Quickbooks as a full bundle as recommended by a number of people.
- The contract Forms are still being looked into and Toni felt that the ones that were shared with her are too cumbersome and problematic.
- Toni also shared that she had met with JoAnn Perlowski who will be functioning as the Book Keeper once she learns the ropes from Toni.
- Toni shared the current budget outlook so far this year. She noted that the MS-27 required it be split between SPED and Reg. Ed. At this point $\frac{3}{4}$ through the year, we are not being billed per contract but are showing up by semester. This difference appears to result in a figure which is less than what we budgeted for. If these projections hold true, we should end up with a surplus, but there are potential outstanding bills that may erode this initial perspective of a surplus.
- Ken shared some potential costs due to student services which may influence the surplus. He also advised the board that we may have some good options to put monies toward the school. We need to be prepared to act if and when we end up with a bona fide surplus.

Manifest: The current manifest for this month is for the amount of \$28,679.39
It involved payments to the Superintendent, Business Manager, Transportation,
Surry Charter, Windy Row, Rise for Baby, Cedarcrest and Post Office.

Topics:

Bussing. Concerns were raised about the bussing services being provided being overcrowded. The board members shared their perspectives about their kids being on busses which seem to be overly filled.

Survey. The survey's that were collected.
There who supported KMS 28
Nelson Elementary 10
Two didn't mind either way.
Three were not included due to invalid data.

Nelson & Sullivan Joint Board Meeting

The boards introduced each other.

Stephanie JK noted that this would function as a good joint meeting between the boards to really discuss the issue of the Nelson School's 6th Graders.

Survey

- Kelly requested for Mike to share the results of the Survey.
- Mike shared the results of the surveys that have been gathered as of the evening of the joint meeting.
 - Those who supported sending kids to KMS -28
 - Those who supported sending the kids to Nelson Elementary 10
 - Those who supported sending the kids to Nelson regardless. 2
 - Three were not included due to invalid data.
- Kelly asked Rob if it were possible to send a similar survey to Nelson residents and he agreed it would be doable.
- Kelly enquired about the expansion responses and Stephanie shared the results.
- Kelly noted that there were concerns about Sullivan potentially withdrawing given the two year contract could leave Nelson hanging.
- Stephanie agreed about the contract posing the issue of the Sullivan 6th Graders being potentially impacted as well.
- The boards discussed their town meetings and their warrant articles. They also shared the turnouts within both town meetings. Nelson noted a sharp dropoff of town meeting attendees while Sullivan noted a good showing.
- Kelly noted that the feelings from their meeting seemed to be quite mixed but had many questioning perspectives. She thought that there is a need to reach out to the community to further understand their desires.
- Sara noted that the discussion about the 6th grade class may be shortsighted and that there may be a need for the addition simply due to the rising numbers. Fire Codes concerns as well as the
- Ron shared concerns for space with the need for pull out and small group efforts. He noted that his office is often used as a space for pull out.
- 46 students from Sullivan and 32 from Nelson
- Kelly desired to make several forums to discuss these issues with the public.

- The concern about the short term of the present contract is a large issue for Nelson. The board and residents would desire to extend the contract for a greater time period. Kelly was concerned about this being influential for the bond issue.
- Nelson residents are split about sending their kids to KMS about 50/50
- Rob noted that these issues are large and will require some dedication and commitments by both towns to solve them.
- A feasibility study could be done and the bond issue potentially be placed on next year's warrant.
- Mike enquired about outbuilding plans and Kelly shared the difficulty both in site work as well as costs.

Forums

- The issue of increased enrollment is driving the issues.
- Richard noted that for most townspeople that don't have kids in the school truly don't realize the challenges facing the school due to these numbers.

Contract

- Kelly desired to know from the Sullivan School Board if there is an openness to extending the contract.
- Ron noted that the forums and feasibility study should be done prior to contractual changes. He also noted that a longer contract would function as a security blanket for each.

Misc.

- Kelly asked if the Sullivan Board had any questions or concerns about how things are going.
- Stephanie shared the concerns about overcrowded busses.
- Ron shared the realities of these events and the oversights by the bus company but he hoped that these issues will not occur again.
- Ron shared the challenge of grouping different classes both with lunch schedules and classes too.
- Stephanie shared that it seems that there is increased interest within real estate in Sullivan due to withdrawing from Monadnock.
- Toni asked about the climate about Nelson residents' concerns with the huge numbers. Kelly shared that there are both sides, those that liked the small class sizes and those that enjoy the social benefits.
- Ron shared the challenge of Specials and how often these interrupt other classes.
- Mike enquired about the potential expansion and impact upon tuition.
- Kelly shared that it would likely go up some but with it being spread over 20 years. She also noted that the tuition rate that we were receiving now is lower than Sullivan could be charged. Contractually it might be seen within a % increase on the contract.

Public Comment: None

Upcoming Meetings / Events

***Nelson's meetings begin at 4PM but the forums would be ideal for the weekends.

Next Sullivan School Board Meeting April 20th @ 6:30 PM

Tentative Forum Dates.	April 27th @ 6:30 PM	@	Nelson School
	May 21st @ 11:00 AM	@	Nelson School

Adjournment

Stephanie Jacques-Kleine motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Paul Bolduc

Meeting closed at 8:42PM

Respectfully Submitted by Paul Bolduc

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bolduc". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".