

Sullivan School Board Pro Tem Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
6:30 PM at the Sullivan Town Hall

Attendance: Dana Briggs, Stephanie Jacques Kleine, Jennifer Labadie, Paul Bolduc, Malinda Scherpa

Public in attendance: Toni Ellsworth, Matt Burke, Chris Pratt, Mark Paquette, JJ Prior, Erin Macie, Dawn Martin, Mary Monroe, Christi Hanson

Call to order 6:31 p.m.

Approval of minutes:

MOTION: Jen Labadie MOVED to approve the minutes of 20 December 2012. **SECOND:** Dana Briggs. Discussion: None. Vote: 5-0, Motion passes.

MOTION: J. Labadie MOVED to accept the agreement with Nelson School District. **SECOND:** Malinda Scherpa. Discussion: Stephanie Jacques-Kleine said 25 surveys responded in favor of Nelson School. Five responded in favor of Harrisville. Toni Ellsworth said she was pleased with last night's discussion. It is a tough decision. J. Labadie said she made her motion in favor of Nelson because so many townspeople expressed it was the favorable choice. Vote: 4-1, Motion passes.

S. Jacques Kleine said she had received tuition quotes from Keene. It is surprising the tuition costs went down from what was previously expected. With the school now chosen, and a quote from First Student, things are coming together. The First Student quote calls for merging two bus routes with Nelson.

S. Jacques Kleine reported the district now has a list of contact information for Sullivan students in Monadnock schools. The Keene High and Middle schools will be contacting families to facilitate the transition.

S. Jacques Kleine reported the Monadnock district will be charging fees for services, including providing access to the Sullivan School building. J. Labadie reported the MRSD has created a subcommittee at last night's meeting to deal with the Sullivan School building. Ken Dassau suggested the school board watch this carefully. Surry received a walkthrough prior to its withdrawal from MRSD. Sullivan is a MRSD member. Paul Bolduc said he had started the conversation with MRSD officials, and any visit would incur a fee.

S. Jacques Kleine recognized the town website has had information posted. J. Prior said there have been issues with the website server, but everything can be posted without issue. J. Labadie said some townspeople expressed that they felt out of the loop. S. Jacques Kleine said the school district should have a voice mail box. Mark Paquette said he would ask about it.

S. Jacques Kleine reported members pro tem of the school board met with officials from SAU 29 to discuss the contract with Keene School District for middle and high school on 20 December 2012. J. Labadie expressed one point to look at is an overcrowding clause such as what is being seen in Manchester. E. Macie asked if overcrowding was a concern for Nelson School. P. Bolduc said the contract duration with Nelson was only 3 years.

On Tuesday, 15 January the school board will meet with Al Merrifield of the Town of Sullivan budget committee. Topics of discussion will include purchase of Sullivan School building and other budget items for 2013-2014.

S. Jacques Kleine said she has been in communication with Granite State Transitional Principals (GSTP), who will provide for superintendent services. The question was raised of how to pay for any consultant services before money has been appropriated. K. Dassau said an option is to place a deficit appropriation article and a separate article for future SAU appropriations. He will be contracted by GSTP to provide transitional services. The expenses estimated by GSTP for transition amount to \$15,000.

MOTION: J. Labadie MOVED to bring the proposal for Granite State Transitional Principals to the budget committee and board of selectmen for their review. **SECOND:** Malinda Scherpa. Discussion: S. Jacques Kleine said she has many questions about issues beyond what is comfortable for the new school board. She'll be glad to have superintendent support. Vote: 5-0, Motion passes.

M. Burke recommended the board share its approval of the proposal with the budget committee and BOS.

MOTION: J. Labadie MOVED to authorize the board chair to notify the school boards of Nelson and Harrisville of the elementary school decision. **SECOND:** M. Scherpa. Discussion: The news should be share tonight by phone. Vote: 5-0, Motion passes.

S. Jacques Kleine expressed a need to draft a mission statement and list of values to guide decisionmaking.

J. Labadie shared information about the NH School Board Association, which provides resources and support to school boards. K. Dassau said the association also provides worker's compensation insurance in addition to liability.

J. Labadie asked about the date of the annual school district meeting. Chris Pratt said the meeting should follow the town meeting on March 13. Voting for officers would happen on March 12 on a separate ballot.

C. Pratt raised a concern with a bond to purchase the Sullivan School building, if it did not pass. M. Burke said the town has historically been understanding of large one-time expenses if they are part of the operating budget.

Public comments: None requested.

P. Bolduc asked about sitting down to hammer out details with Nelson. S. Jacques Kleine said no contracts have been ready to sign. SAU 29 officials are working on it.

MOTION: J. Labadie MOVED to adjourn. **SECOND:** D. Briggs. Voice vote, Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Prior
Recording secretary