

**Sullivan School Board pro tem joint meeting
with Nelson School Board
Wednesday, January 23, 2013
6:30 PM at the Sullivan Town Hall**

Sullivan School Board pro tem: Stephanie Jacques Kleine, Jennifer Labadie, Paul Bolduc, Malinda Scherpa

Nelson School Board: Kelly French, Jessica Walker, Lewis Derby

Others in attendance: Ann Sweet, Roger Sweet, JJ Prior, Sheila Vara, Ken Dassau, Wayne Woolrich, Tim Ruehr, Toni Ellsworth, Deb Zuger Lyons

Call to order 6:45 p.m. Sullivan School Board does not have a quorum.

K. French said the Nelson board wants to know about Sullivan's assumptions of school services from Nelson, and is curious about the timeline for receiving attendance numbers. K. Dassau said he had received information and had a good understanding of who would be attending Nelson School. T. Ruehr said that SPED services that were not considered to be of an "extraordinary" level were included in the Nelson School tuition rate of \$10,088 per student.

The Nelson board distributed the latest draft of its school tuition contract. T. Ruehr suggested rewording to allow flexibility for both towns to send 6th graders to Keene Middle School, if such an arrangement were to become necessary in the future. The 3-year contract could remain in effect for 19 years.

J. Labadie arrived at 7:20. Sullivan School Board has reached a quorum.

K. French described the tuition-generating process. The first two years are projections. Future year tuition costs will be more closely aligned to the per-pupil costs. The tuition rate will be announced by November 15. Language will be added to clarify the terms for 2014-2014, and to specify the special education billing policy. Additional changes should specify that Sullivan's right to send students to other schools is intended to serve special education purposes, rather than for other reasons such as academic enrichment. It should also be clarified that the minimum number of students (25) would apply only for the first year of the contract.

P. Bolduc arrived at 7:30.

K. French suggested that Sullivan establish a position of Attendance Officer. This is also important for determining residency.

K. French stressed the importance of determining the number of students with IEPs. The Nelson School special education teacher should sit in on IEP meetings as they happen this year. This should include 4-year-olds who will be requiring services in Kindergarten next year.

MOTION: M. Scherpa MOVED to allow the Nelson School staff to access and receive student information from Monadnock Regional School District. **SECOND:** J. Labadie. Vote: 4-0, Motion passes.

The Nelson School Board left to continue its meeting separately.

The Sullivan board pro tem discussed how to nail down the number of home-school and private-school students. The budget must be ready by February 15 so it can be reviewed by the budget committee. J. Labadie will ensure the budget and warrant are posted in time. Estimates on the number of students attending Nelson should be based on the assumption that all students eligible to stay in MRSD will opt to do so, so there will not be an underestimated budget for tuition.

The board will post a meeting to discuss the budget following the tour of the Sullivan School building at 4:30 p.m. on January 31.

Approval of minutes:

MOTION: Jen Labadie MOVED to approve the Sullivan School District meeting minutes of 8 January 2013 as amended. **SECOND:** P. Bolduc. Discussion: S. Jacques Kleine said the record should state that Monadnock “would likely charge” more than tuition to Keene High School. Also, the school board would be voting “after consulting the surveys, and considering the public discussion” at the district meeting. Vote: 4-0, Motion passes.

The draft of the SAU 93 withdrawal plan is good. The withdrawal committee will meet tomorrow. Deputy Education Commissioner Paul Leather suggests sending a copy to DOE attorney Sarah Browning for review prior to voting to approve the plan.

The Deficit appropriation continues to grow. It will include \$15,000 for Granite State Transitional Principals, \$20,000 for legal fees, \$500 for supplies and mailings, and appropriations for \$1200 to pay the Nelson special education teacher for attending the IEP meetings. The district should have a lockbox. The current file cabinet is not lockable.

MOTION: Jen Labadie MOVED to accept the GSTP transition proposal for inclusion in the deficit appropriation article this March – and to hire GSTP immediately pending a positive district vote on the article. **SECOND:** P. Bolduc. Discussion: K. Dassau explained how his time is counted and credited in service to Sullivan. Vote: 4-0, Motion passes.

MOTION: Jen Labadie MOVED to appoint Dr. Ken Dassau as the Sullivan School District Administrator through June 2013, and grant him access to all Sullivan student and district information. **SECOND:** M. Scherpa. Vote: 4-0, Motion passes.

J. Labadie shared important upcoming dates:

Public hearing on SAU withdrawal vote - Jan. 29

Post Budget hearing by Jan. 31

District Budget hearing - Feb. 7

Could the school district “borrow” an amount of money from the town reserves to soften the blow of paying for the school building? S. Jacques Kleine will pose the idea to the select board on Monday. K. Dassau said to be sure to stress the extraordinary circumstances leading up to this late budgeting when discussing with the selectmen and budget committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Public comments: None requested.

MOTION: J. Labadie MOVED to adjourn. **SECOND:** M. Scherpa. Voice vote, Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Prior

Recording secretary