

**Report of the Withdrawal Planning
Committee Studying the Withdrawal
of the
Town of Sullivan
from the
Monadnock Regional School District
Pursuant to 195:26**

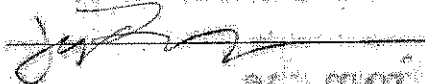
September 5th, 2012

1. At its meeting on September 5, 2012, (a quorum being present), the Committee determined by a vote of 10 YES, 1 NO, with ABSTENTIONS that the withdrawal of Sullivan from Monadnock Regional School District, (the Cooperative) is feasible and suitable.
2. The Committee therefore pursuant to RSA 195:25 submits with this Report the attached Withdrawal Plan as prepared and approved by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

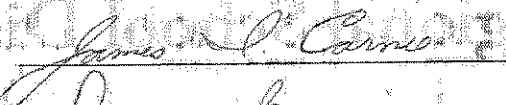
MRSD School Board Representatives:

Jen Labadie, Chair
Sullivan



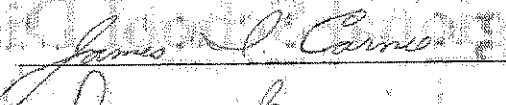
date: 9/5/2012

Dick Thackston, MRSD Chair
Troy



date:

Jim Carnie
Richmond



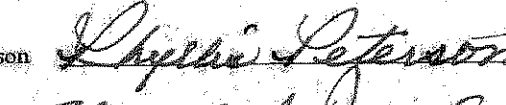
date: 9/3/12

Pat Bauries
Switzey



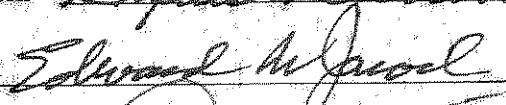
date: 9/5/12

Phyllis Peterson
Fitzwilliam



date: 9/5/12

Ed Jacod
Gilsam



date: 9/5/2012

Mark Fink
Roxbury



date: 9/5/12

September 2012

Select Persons

Mark Paquette Mark Paquette date: 9/5/2012
Sullivan

Mike Cummings _____ date: _____
Troy

Susan Silverman Susan Silverman date: 9/5/12
Fitzwilliam

Karen Cora Karen Cora date: 9/5/12
Roxbury

Deborah Davis _____ date: _____
Swanzey

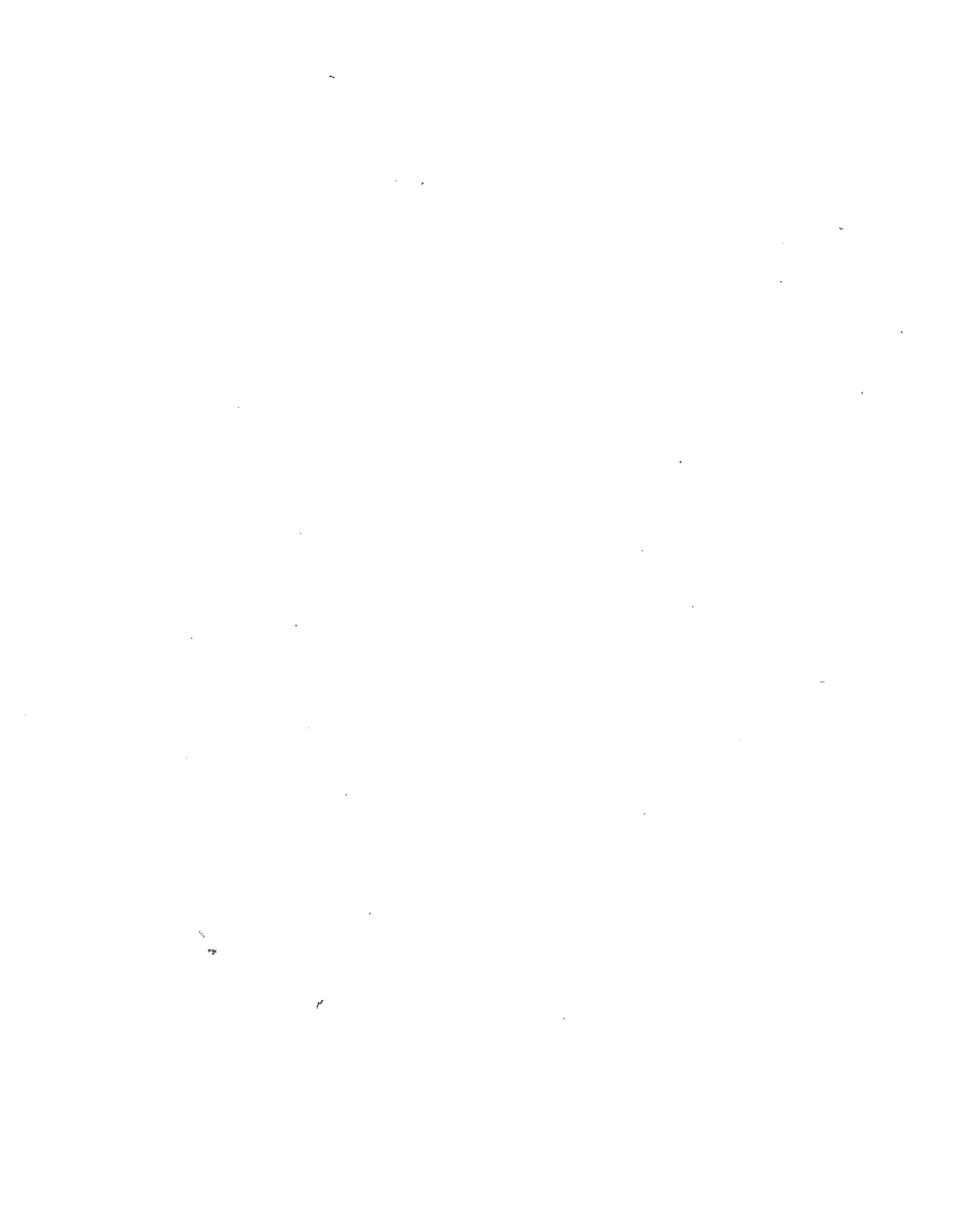
Sandra Gillis _____ date: _____
Richmond

Ray Britton Ray Britton date: 9/5/12
Gilsam

MRSD Admin

Dr. Corriveau Dr. Corriveau date: 9-5-12

The Sullivan Withdrawal Committee finds that the Sullivan Plan for withdrawal from the MRSD is feasible and suitable. The Sullivan withdrawal continues knowing negotiations have to take place on cost of the special meeting, early retirement, capital leases and any other outstanding obligations the District has.



Plan for the Withdrawal
of the
Town of Sullivan
from the
Monadnock Regional School District
Pursuant to 195:26

August 27th, 2012

Section 195:26

195:26 Withdrawal Plan. – A plan for the withdrawal of a member district or districts of a cooperative school district shall include the following:

I. The name of the withdrawing district or districts and the grades.

The name of the school district shall be the Sullivan School District. This district shall oversee and provide for the education of children residing in the Town of Sullivan grades Kindergarten through 12, and pre-kindergarten as required under RSA 186-C:2.

II. The number, composition, method of selection, and terms of office of the school board of the withdrawing district or districts and of the cooperative school board.

The Sullivan School Board shall be the governing entity of the Sullivan School district and shall comprise five board members, elected at-large by voters of the Town of Sullivan for three-year staggered terms.

In the first school board election, two positions shall be for one-year terms, two positions shall be for two years, and the final shall be a three-year term of office.

III. The method of apportioning the operating and capital expenses among the members of the cooperative school district if a change is to be proposed in conjunction with the withdrawal procedure.

The remaining towns of the Monadnock Regional School District shall reapportion operating and capital expenses as determined by the MRSD policies and procedures.

IV. The proposed date of operating responsibility, at which time the withdrawing district shall be responsible for the education of its pupils and after which the cooperative district will no longer have such financial and educational responsibility.

The Sullivan School District shall be exclusively responsible for overseeing the education of Sullivan students no later than July 1, 2013.

V. The liability of the withdrawing district for its share of any outstanding indebtedness of the cooperative school district as detailed in RSA 195:27.

There are no capital costs within the meaning of RSA 195:27 in that the MRSD will have no outstanding indebtedness on the effective date as of the November 2012 district wide withdrawal vote which was incurred to finance cooperative school facilities. Liabilities outside RSA 195:27 shall be negotiated pending specified figures and listed items from MRSD.

VI. A plan for the education of all students in the withdrawing school district and for the continuation of the school system of the cooperative district. This shall detail the proposed assignment of students in grades operated by the cooperative and withdrawing district or districts including, if any, tuition arrangements or contracts.

1. **Educating grades K-6.** The Sullivan School District shall contract with and pay tuition to a nearby school district, to be determined by the Sullivan School Board, to ensure the adequate education of students in grades Kindergarten through 6. Letters of intent from the Nelson School District and the Harrisville School District are provided as Appendix A.
2. **Educating grades 7-12.** The Sullivan School District shall contract with and pay tuition to the Keene School District to ensure the adequate education of students in grades 7 through 12. A letter of intent from the Keene School District is provided as Appendix B. It is the plan to only contract grades 7-12 with Keene School District though the letter of intent provides for grades 6-12.
3. **Pre-kindergarten special education.** The Sullivan School District shall contract with and pay tuition under RSA 186-C:10 to one or more nearby public or private preschool programs, to be determined by the Sullivan School Board and the child's family, to ensure the adequate education of students requiring special education services after the age of 3 as identified in RSA 186-C:2. A letter of intent from Montessori Schoolhouse is provided as Appendix C. Nelson School District and Harrisville School District have each provided a letter of intent to offer special education services to Sullivan preschool students whose IEP requires such services (Appendix D). Case management would not be included.
4. **Bus transportation.** The Sullivan School District shall contract to provide bus transportation for its students to the contracted elementary, middle, and high schools. Preschool transportation shall be contracted as needed. A letter of intent from First Student Transportation is provided as Appendix E.
5. **Exception for school continuity.** The Sullivan School District shall contract with and pay tuition to the Monadnock Regional School District to ensure the continued adequate education of any Sullivan students having completed grades 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the spring of the withdrawal year, whose families wish to allow their children to finish their school careers at Gilsum Elementary or Monadnock Regional High School. Students wishing to "graduate out" of Monadnock must complete their programs by June 30 three years subsequent to the date of the withdrawal.

6. **SAU status.** Following certification of withdrawal from the Monadnock Regional School District by the NH Board of Education, the new Sullivan School District shall begin the process of withdrawing from SAU 93, with an effective operating date of July 1, 2013 for a new independent, single district School Administrative Unit. At which point, the Sullivan School District shall contract for the necessary superintendent services or shall elect to join an existing SAU and shall be determined upon completion of the study.
7. **Remaining towns.** The Monadnock Regional School District shall continue operating and providing services to the remaining member towns of Fitzwilliam, Gilsum, Richmond, Roxbury, Swanzey and Troy.

VII. Any other matters, not incompatible with law, which the planning committee may consider appropriate to include in the withdrawal plan.

1. It is understood that the Town of Sullivan shall vote to appropriate the funds to purchase the former Sullivan Central School building as directed by RSA 195:28 by including cost of purchasing said school in its first operating budget in the amount of \$182,847.00.
2. Comparison of Estimated Costs for Sullivan School District

Tuitioning Nelson Elementary K-6 and to Keene School District 7-12

General Ed Program Totals Grades K-6 \$330,000
 SPED Totals Grades K-6 \$50,000
 General Ed Program Totals Grades 7-8 \$127,000
 SPED Totals Grades 7-8 \$107,376
 General Ed Program Totals Grades 9-12 \$259,446
 SPED Totals Grades 9-12 \$137,082
 Total Preschool \$50,000
 Total SPED outplaced \$41,278
 Transportation \$100,000

Total before State Adequacy Aid \$1,202,182
 Less State Adequacy Aid of \$262,200
 Total \$939,982

Tuitioning to Harrisville's Wells Memorial Elementary School K-6 and Keene School District 7-12

General Ed Program Totals Grades K-6 \$382,800

SPED Totals Grades K-6 \$53,200

General Ed Program Totals Grades 7-8 \$127,000

SPED Totals Grades 7-8 \$107,376

General Ed Program Totals Grades 9-12 \$259,446

SPED Totals Grades 9-12 \$137,082

Total Preschool \$50,000

Total SPED outplaced \$41,278

Transportation \$100,000

Total before State Adequacy Aid \$1,258,182

Less State Adequacy Aid of \$262,200

Total \$995,982

3. Sullivan School District shall have no staff. Sullivan School District shall maintain a file cabinet at the town office and shall share its mailing address. There shall be minimal to no rental and utility expenses. Property-Liability insurance shall be held by Local Government Center (LGC).
4. Sullivan is responsible for approximately 4.3% of the total MRSD/SAU93 budget. Approximately 4% of this figure is applied towards SAU costs and 96% is applied towards the district costs (based on the MRSD 2012/2013 budget). The impact from Sullivan's withdrawal is \$1,064,198 toward both SAU and cooperative district services.

Appendix A

Nelson School

MRSD Sullivan Withdrawal Committee
Jennifer Labadie, Chair
600 Old Homestead Highway
Swanzey, New Hampshire 03446

Dear Ms. Labadie,


The Nelson School Board would like to formally extend an invitation to open its doors and welcome all Sullivan elementary students to the Nelson School family in the fall of 2013.

We believe that our Blue Ribbon School with its consistent record of achieving AYP, individualized instruction, and nurturing environment as well as your close proximity to us, would be a perfect fit for the elementary students of Sullivan. We are currently establishing an afterschool program to begin in the fall of 2012 which will be available to Sullivan families in the fall of 2013. In addition, members of the Nelson School staff have begun preliminary conversations on how to create a seamless transition to Nelson School for families, children, and your community members.

After your site visit to us earlier this year and meeting members of your community and your community members meeting ours, there appeared to be a connection and comfortableness between us. Your questions and concerns were ours and it appeared that our educational program matched the needs of your community in terms of school culture, expectations, technology, teaching expertise, and a small staff student ratio all embedded in a family school atmosphere.

We look forward to working with the members of the withdrawal committee, your family and community members as well as staff members to address and/or resolve any issues that you may have and to create a collaborative and seamless transition for the elementary students from Sullivan to the Nelson School.

Sincerely,



Kelly French, Nelson School Board Chair
Allison Aldrich
Jessica Walker

Cc: Wayne Woolridge, Co-Superintendent, Keene, New Hampshire
Sheila Vara, Teaching Principal, Nelson School



WELLS MEMORIAL SCHOOL
KNOWLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

PRINCIPAL
Emily Hornbore

MRSD Sullivan Withdrawal Committee
Jennifer Labadie, Chair
600 Old Homestead Hwy.
Swanzy, NH 03446

June 8, 2012

Ms. Labadie-

Please consider this a formal letter of intent regarding the Harrisville School District's interest in accepting Sullivan's K-6 students on a tuition basis beginning as early as the 2013-2014 school year. Based on available student projections for Harrisville and Sullivan, the Harrisville School Board believes it would be in the interest of both communities to establish a working agreement to educate Sullivan's students at the Harrisville Wells Memorial School.

At our March, 2012 school district meeting, The Harrisville School District voters passed the following Warrant Article with a clear and supportive voice vote:

To see if the District would vote to support, in principle, the Harrisville School Board entering into an agreement with Sullivan, which would set up a tuition agreement that would call for the acceptance of Sullivan elementary students to attend Wells Memorial School in exchange for tuition.

The Harrisville Board meets on June 20th, and then not again until September. In my opinion the intent of the District vote strongly reinforces the previously expressed intent of the Board. Regardless, I will place review and approval of this letter on our agenda for that meeting.

As has been the case since our earliest discussions with the Sullivan citizens' committee that explored withdrawal from MRSD, the Harrisville School Board stands ready to continue discussions, answer questions, and help the MRSD Sullivan Withdrawal Committee in any appropriate, supportive manner.

Please keep us informed of your progress, and contact me at any time if I can assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl Horn". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Earl Horn, Chair
Harrisville School Board
235 Chesham Rd.
Harrisville, NH 03450

Appendix B



June 15, 2012

To Whom it May Concern on the Sullivan Study Committee
on Options in Public Education:

101 Maple Avenue
Keene NH 03431
603.357.9004
www.SAU29.org

William B. Gurney
Co Superintendent SAU 29
603.357.9004
wgurney@sau29.org

Wayne E Woolridge
Co-Superintendent SAU 29
603.357.9005
wwoolridge@sau29.org

The Keene District School Board has been advised that Sullivan has begun the process of withdrawing from the Monadnock Regional Cooperative School District. I write this letter to address the intentions of the Keene School Board with regard to students from Sullivan.

On June 12, 2012, the Keene School Board met and affirmed its willingness to meet and discuss admitting Sullivan students into grades 6-12 in the Keene school system if that is the direction the town chooses. Of course, we should know as early as possible the numbers of students in each grade.

Please know that we have tuition agreements with three other communities. There is one agreement for the high school and one for the middle school. Each agreement is basically the same except for the actual tuition amount at each school. We do not envision that Sullivan would have a different agreement than our other tuition agreement communities.

We wish the town good fortune in its endeavors and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Christopher C. Coates
Chair, Keene Board of Education

/df

Appendix C



Montessori Schoolhouse

69 Washington St., Keene, NH 03431 • (603) 352-3301 • mshocc@myfairpoint.net • www.mshocc.org

June 20, 2012

Stephanie Kleine
Town of Sullivan
Sullivan, NH 03445

Dear Stephanie,

The Montessori Schoolhouse's mission is to provide a safe, nurturing and peaceful environment for children of all abilities and backgrounds. We believe all children are unique and should be helped to develop at their own pace, to their fullest potential, in a non-competitive atmosphere. More information about our school and Montessori teaching methods can be found on our website at www.mshocc.org.

We do accept and currently have preschool children with IEP's and our teachers may seek to have a child evaluated by their district's preschool team if they feel an IEP may be needed. The Program Director will meet with both the parents and district preschool team to discuss their child's IEP. If she feels any approaches to behavioral concerns are not compatible with Montessori teaching methods and philosophy, our staff is not trained to handle a specific approach, or the child exhibits harmful, aggressive behavior to other children then the Director may determine it is not a good fit.

If it is determined that a one-on-one aid is needed it must be provided and paid for by the child's own school district, or the family, for the child to attend. Tutors must also be provided by the school district if needed, and may visit to tutor the child during school hours as needed and determined by the school district.

All families are responsible for enrolling their own child(ren) and paying the registration fee, security deposits, tuition and any other applicable fees in full. If the school district decides they are able to assist families with all or a part of the tuition fees, they can notify us and we will bill the district directly and bill the family for any remaining fees due.

We cannot hold spots specifically for children with IEP plans from the town of Sullivan but I can provide information packets to distribute to families. Interested families should then contact me to begin the application process or schedule a tour. We accept applications year round and the Program Director generally begins to interview and accept students in May for the following school year. We will also accept students after school has begun if we still have openings.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information. My hours are 10am to 4pm, Monday through Friday, year-round.

Best Regards,



Lisa M. LeBlanc
Administrative Director

Appendix D



w w w . s a u 2 9 . o r g

Harrisville School District
193 Maple Avenue, Keene, NH 03431

June 19, 2012

Town of Sullivan
PO Box 110
Sullivan, NH 03445

To Whom It May Concern,

In response to recent queries about the availability of service providers to serve preschool children who are eligible for special education related services, Harrisville is committed to making any future tuition agreement a lasting one and would be willing to support Sullivan's efforts in serving their preschool aged children by selling services at a breakeven rate such as speech or OT to Sullivan school district when we are using our own employees. As a smaller school district we too often use contracted services for these types of needs, and when we do, we would be happy to share our contacts with you and help facilitate Sullivan School District hiring those contractors. This pledge of cooperation is for services only. We are not able to make the same commitment to case management or LEA duties, as you would be an independent district as are we.

We wish you wisdom in making a very momentous decision in your town's future and please take our pledge of cooperation as an indication of how we intend to operate throughout any future relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Ruehr".

Tim Ruehr
Business Administrator f/t Towns

cc: Wayne Woolridge, Assistant Superintendent



www.sau29.org

Nelson School District
193 Maple Avenue, Keene, NH 03431

June 19, 2012

Town of Sullivan
PO Box 110
Sullivan, NH 03445

To Whom It May Concern,

In response to recent queries about the availability of service providers to serve preschool children who are eligible for special education related services, Nelson is committed to making any future tuition agreement a lasting one and would be willing to support Sullivan's efforts in serving their preschool aged children by selling services at a breakeven rate such as speech or OT to Sullivan school district when we are using our own employees. As a smaller school district we too often use contracted services for these types of needs, and when we do, we would be happy to share our contacts with you and help facilitate Sullivan School District hiring those contractors. This pledge of cooperation is for services only. We are not able to make the same commitment to case management or LEA duties, as you would be an independent district as are we.

We wish you wisdom in making a very momentous decision in your town's future and please take our pledge of cooperation as an indication of how we intend to operate throughout any future relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim R".

Tim Ruehr
Business Administrator f/t Towns

cc: Wayne Woolridge, Assistant Superintendent

Appendix E



51 Lowell Road
Salem, NH 03079

June 19, 2012

Town of Sullivan
P.O. Box 110
Sullivan, NH 03445

Re: Town of Sullivan, Sullivan Study Committee On Public Education, and
MRSD Withdrawal Study Committee

To whom it may concern:

First Student provides student transportation for schools, districts and organizations including the Monadnock Regional School District, the Keene School District as well as many other districts in Cheshire County, NH. First Student is currently providing student transportation services for students from Sullivan NH to area elementary, middle and high schools. When and if the Town of Sullivan wishes to contract our services directly, they may do so the same as any other school district. As the Sullivan School District is not yet re-formed and they are not in a position at this time to negotiate pricing or other contract details, we obviously can not commit to these details in advance. Nonetheless, we look forward to a continuing partnership with the Sullivan School District.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Anderson".

Howard Anderson
Area General Manager
First Student, Inc.