

November 15, 2007

Minutes of Special Meeting
Chesterfield School Board
Chesterfield School, 1:00 PM

Present: Judy Idelkope, Board Chair
Becky Auger, Board Member
Kristin McKeon, Board Member
Ege Cordell, Board Member
Wayne Woolridge, Assistant Superintendent
Sharyn D'Eon, Principal
Kathleen Selvidio, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm

Ms. Idelkope requested a change of order and moved the Superintendent Search up the first item to be discussed. Ms. Idelkope stated that the SAU Reorganization Committee has asked the towns to report back on their boards feelings on deferring the superintendent search until next year.

Ms. Cordell asked where we are financially in regards to the superintendent position.

When does the old contract expire and the new one begin?

Ms. Idelkope shared that the contract expired in June of 2008.

Discussion then ensued on the different options.

It was shared that Keene would like to wait until after July 1st.

Ms. Cordell felt that for Keene it was already a moot point, they already have their own superintendent. She felt that the tier of administration needs to be completed so that everyone can move on and do their job, what would the harm be in doing it now?

Ms. Idelkope shared that Keene would like to resolve the work of the following:

AREA Agreement

SAU Reorganization Committee

Ms. McKeon stated that she believes a strong SAU board makes a strong superintendent. We (the SAU) do not act as a cohesive unit or that we don't use one voice. Should look at how our SAU functions, does it meet the needs of the way districts are set up now? Superintendents might not want to apply to our SAU as it is set up now.

Ms. Cordell said that under normal circumstances the search time is a minimum of 6 months. Never something that we should wait on, is the thought that waiting until July 1 would save us some money?

Ms. Idelkope originally supported Mr. Gurney and Mr. Woolridge acting in place of the superintendent position, and still feels that was appropriate at the moment. However, after functioning for a year, feels it is time to move to next model. If we wait, we could be staying with this model for another 2-3 years. Is not convinced that the SAU issues will be solved in the next year or two. Need someone external, or internal, to act as a superintendent. Right now we are

stuck in a maintenance and problem-solving mode and not in a pro-active mode. Need to start at least with the committee process.

Ms. Cordell asked that if the towns push for a search would the committee move ahead with this?

Ms. Idelkope does not feel it would push the work.

Ms. Idelkope felt that they could hire a interim superintendent but the biggest barrier for Keene is that it is a multiple district SAU. There are people who would absolutely want to step up to the challenge.

Ms. McKeon is not opposed to starting now, but people might get weary, just wonders if we are really ready for this.

Ms. Idelkope asked Ms. McKeon what would make it ready for you?

Ms. McKeon shared that she felt that SAU needs, as a whole, to know what it wants, expects, of the SAU in the future, what do the towns want, what does Keene want?

Ms. Auger felt that it is certainly a doable request to have the town boards work together on finding a common thread for our goals.

Ms. Idelkope shared that Keene wants their own superintendent for Keene, and then a superintendent for the SAU. There would be someone to oversee the budget, but not necessarily Keene's budget. Towns and Keene want someone who will show leadership, need to reach an agreement on what that means.

Mr. Woolridge felt that the agendas are coming together and that the towns are working closer. There is good discussion on goals, they are trying to identify all the characteristics they want the superintendent to have. There is work that needs to be done.

Ms. Idelkope thinks that a good superintendent would certainly shorten the distance between the towns and Keene.

Poll taken on boards position on waiting or beginning now for the superintendent search.

Three positive votes taken for beginning search now, with Ms. McKeon stipulating that there be work on SAU Goals.

Non-Public Session - R.S.A. 91-A:3

Ms. McKeon made a motion that the Board move into non-public session at 1:40 p.m. under the provisions of R.S.A. 91-A:3 to discuss staff/student personnel. Accompanying the Board were Mr. Woolridge and Ms. D'Eon.

Ms. Auger made a motion for the Board to return to public session at 2:00, Ms. Cordell seconded the motion, all in favor 4-0.

Mr. Woolridge spoke on the 20 resolutions to be debated at the NHSBA where Ms. Cordell would be representing Chesterfield. The board was asked to vote on their desire to support or not support the 20 different resolutions. Below are the votes for each resolution that was presented by Mr. Woolridge.

1. 4-0 support
 2. 4-0 support
 3. 4-0 support
 4. 4-0 support
 5. 4-0 support
 6. 4-0 support
- Ms. Auger needed to leave at this point

7. 3-0 support
8. 3-0 support
9. 3-0 support
10. 3-0 support
11. 3-0 support
12. 3-0 support
13. 3-0 support
14. 3-0 support
15. 3-0 support
16. 3-0 does not support
17. 3-0 does not support
18. 3-0 does not support
19. 3-0 support
20. 3-0 support

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Selvidio
Recording Secretary