

MINUTES
SAU 13 Cooperative Planning Board
Monday, November 25, 2013 @ 5 P.M.
Camp Calumet Conference Center, Freedom, NH

PRESENT: Jane Davidson, Cheryl Littlefield, Ray O'Brien, Shannon Ames, Lori Palmer, Jack Waldron, Michael Douglass, and Karl Ogren

ABSENT: Kiersten Grieb

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm by Chair Jack Waldron

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Laurie made a MOTION and Jane seconded to approve the minutes of September 11, 2013. There was no discussion or changes and the motion PASSED unanimously.

NAME: Cheryl made a MOTION to name our group the **SAU 13 Cooperative Planning Board**. It was seconded by Michael and PASSED unanimously.

MISSION: Michael made a MOTION and Laurie seconded that the following be our mission: "It is the MISSION of the **SAU 13 Cooperative Planning Board** to seek areas where our districts can cooperate to promote educational excellence while being fiscally responsible in our elementary schools." The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

AREAS OF COOPERATION: We discussed some of the areas below.

- Policies: It would be easier with one set of policies for all of us as a cooperative. Is this desirable? Can policy making be shifted to the SAU? No, the SAU cannot set policy for the districts. That is the responsibility of the districts. A coop would simplify this, but autonomy would be lost. Perhaps as an SAU we could help streamline the approval process. The NHSBA delivers a recommended template to the superintendent, superintendent reviews and delivers it to the next step, which could be the SAU joint board. Finally it has to be approved by each district.
- Transportation: We could all agree to contract out to the same busing contractor whether we are a Coop district or not. If we were a cooperative district, that board would make the decision.
- Purchasing: Is there any more we could do as a Coop? We do as much as we can now.
- Administration functions: As districts we each have a full complement of administrative services. We have ways of sharing employees as separate districts.
- Collective bargaining: The coop district would negotiate two contracts: Teachers and Para-educators. Now the SAU negotiates many contracts and they are all different.

CHAIRMAN ASKED QUESTIONS OF NHSBA:

- Personel: Can the SAU hire teachers and para-educators and assign them to districts? According to Barrett Christina, NHSBA attorney, the SAU cannot hire staff and assign them to the districts. Now each district hires its own employees, but can share them if a district doesn't need a full time employee. A cooperative district could hire employees and assign them as needed.

- Ownership of buildings: Barrett Christina, NHSBA attorney, said the Coop need not take over all property in the districts. However, and building not taken over by the district would have to be disposed by the district or revert to town ownership. Leases could be arranged. The arrangement would have to be among the towns because there would be no more districts. A Cooperative District would take the place of each current School District. The school property in each town would revert to the town if an arrangement wasn't made to have the Coop District own it.
- Many variables would have to be ironed out before going into an agreement including duration, facilities, paying for it, etc.

APPROXIMATE STUDENT POPULATIONS: Freedom 60, M-140, KAB 230.
Enrollment is declining at this point.

OTHER COOPS: Jack will contact other coop districts so we can ask them questions about their experiences.

HOMEWORK: Think up questions for other cooperative districts for the January meeting.

What will the ends game look like: We should create a report and make recommendations that may be voted on at school district meetings. Should we maintain the current structure with several suggestions? Should we form a cooperative district?

UPDATE: Jack will produce a summary of our activity to date for our next meeting so we can inform the towns perhaps through their town report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

NEXT MEETING: Jan 13, 2013, Monday, 5:00, at Calumet.

ADJOURN: We adjourned the meeting at 6:16pm on a MOTION by Cheryl and Karl seconded. It PASSED unanimously.

Submitted by
Ray O'Brien
Clerk