

**SAU 9 & SAU 13
Joint Boards
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2017**

A joint meeting of SAU's 9 and 13 was called to order on June 1, 2017 at 6:01 p.m. at the Conway Professional Development Center at Kennett Middle School.

In attendance were: Joe Ferris, Albany; Chris Kennedy, Eaton; Jessica Whitelaw, Conway; Randy Davison, Conway; Scott Grant, Bartlett; Vicki Harlow, Bartlett; Genn Anzaldi, Jackson; Stan Solomon, Albany; Amanda Doherty, Madison; Kate Shackford, Madison; Sara Young-Knox (6:10 p.m), Albany, and Sloane Jarell (6:16 p.m.) Madison. Also in attendance were SAU 9 Superintendent Kevin Richard, SAU 9 Assistant Superintendent Kadie Wilson, KHS Principal Neal Moylan, Career/Tech Director Virginia Schrader and KMS Principal Rick Biche.

Mr. Richard called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

A. Reorganization:

Chairperson: Vicki Harlow nominated by Mr. Grant, seconded by Ms. Anzaldi.

Nomination passed unanimously.

Vice Chair: Ms. Harlow asked Sara Young-Knox if she would be willing. Ms.

Young-Knox accepts the nomination. ***Nomination passed unanimously.***

Approve Minutes from the meeting of January 26th.

Motion: by Mr. Grant, seconded by Ms. Anzaldi.

Unanimous. Kate, Jessica, Chris, Jessica abstained

B. Public Comments:

Nicole Nordland: Regarding the proposal to change the vacation schedule. She would like to point out some things: She has been collecting correspondence from parents and other community members. The lack of transparency on this as reported by the newspaper should be alarming to many people. The reasons for this change have changed a multitude of times. The people of the community need to know why they are looking at this. The businesses in the area support the schools so much. We are one school community and we are consumers of a product in Conway. The people she's talked to have great ideas for solving this problem. She feels that it is an injustice to students, families, and teachers with second jobs. If businesses need to turn to hiring from abroad, those people will come in and stay through the summer, so there will be no summer jobs available for students and staff that take on summer jobs. She hopes that everyone can work together and figure out how to insert themselves into this issue. The financial impact on buses needs to be considered. The other sending towns were very disrespected. She has talked to many teachers and none of them want it. She hopes the Conway School Board puts out why they are really doing this.

C. Superintendent Reports.

Mr. Richard: Mr. Goscinski could not be here this evening, but he had prepared to share some information regarding *Change Direction NH*, regarding mental health and issues surrounding it. Chief Justice Broderick has a personal story that he tells. We are looking at working on a presentation in conjunction with the High School and wellness team. Justice Broderick would do a presentation to high school kids during the day and for the public at night.

KHS graduation will be on June 17th at 10am.

Competency-Based Education: **Mr. Richard:** We want people to become familiar with this. Distributed a paper that talks about good practices for students and achievement. It would be difficult to argue that these practices wouldn't benefit our students. If we have students with a real interest in learning about a certain area, it is something that should be encouraged. Personalized learning means extending credit for learning about those areas. It's about separating the work habits from what the students are able to do. The assessments are like autopsies: we find out where they are at this point, and move on to something else. With competency-based education, that assessment is ongoing. This is much more student-centered and personalized for our students. Half the schools in the state are headed in this direction. This does not replace the GPA. The AP offerings are still there, but maybe something they take \ as a junior instead of a senior. This frees them up to earn college credit in HS. We're moving to a more systemic approach as we move forward and we want to begin the conversations. SAU9 is becoming very comfortable with this and aligning their curriculum to those standards.

Ms. Harlow: she and Mark attended a workshop on this, seems like people are really interested. **Ms. Jarell:** SAU 13 is not familiar with standards-based grading. Mr. Biche came and explained how they do it at the middle school. She doesn't understand why they need to change the grading system. Would love to have Kevin and Neal come down to SAU 13 and talk about this more. **Ms. Wilson:** you can still have a grade and still be assessed on competencies. **Ms. Jarell:** they still have a letter grade? **Ms. Wilson:** this is something still way down the road, but yes, they will still be able to have a GPA calculated. **Ms. Wilson:** this is something happening in schools across the country, but they are doing it differently. **Ms. Jarell:** she is concerned about colleges. **Mr. Moylan:** so is he. They are going to be transparent on this. There is a piece for parents, teachers, students, community members to learn and understand. There are some high schools that are already doing this. How we end up doing it will be the result of a lot of collaboration. All of us will work together to get to a point where we are all comfortable. It's about personalized investment. When he sees kids to invested in their science project, you talk to them and it's like they're speaking Russian as far as he's concerned. They've studied and mastered their project. Today if a student gets a low C or a D, we move them into a lower class. The student does

not have the skills needed for that class. This identifies the skills they have and which they do not have mastery in. How we're going to get there, he's not sure. There is no way we will ever put our kids into a situation where they will not be successful. He shares her concerns, as does their staff. **Ms. Jarell:** she has tried to educate herself on it, she just feels like these kids' future depends on us, and this feels like a big guinea pig/gamble. **Mr. Moylan:** we are not the guinea pig in this. For our kids to stay competitive, they need to continue to evolve to move forward. He doesn't want to see their kids left behind. As we move toward this, he would expect that there will be a lot of parent, student and community forums. He doesn't want to just take what works in one school and plop it into Kennett, because it may not work for us. Failure is not an option. **Mr. Richard:** we do know that these pieces do work, and they have worked. A student in Jackson developed a ski binding by using a 3D printer. He put in hundreds and hundreds of hours. We want kids to be able to achieve that level. **Mr. Davison:** he is in favor of standards-based grading, but he has real concerns about continuing it beyond the 8th grade. Most universities and colleges are looking for how well you did in secondary school. He can see the benefit of the standards-based before 8th grade, but it is important for HS students to know exactly where they stand when they are planning to go forward. He can understand the desire, but both should go hand-in-hand. **Mr. Richard:** the other part is that post-secondary institutions understand the bastardization of the GPA, for example a kid graduating with a 4.75 GPA on a scale of 4.

Ms. Shackford: it seems like the focus is a lot on the grading, doesn't it seem a bit premature? Shouldn't it be on the learning and getting our faculty up to par? Because they too, depending on how long they've been teaching, some are teaching one way, others teach in other ways. If a child is used to that grading structure, then when they get to the HS they understand it. We don't know what our kids are going to experience in HS, it just seems disjointed. Parents don't understand it, either. A 2 or a 3 means nothing to them. **Ms. Wilson:** the biggest difference is the separation out of those behaviors from what is being learned. That 70 should be that you know 70 percent of the material, not that just you 'scored a 70.'

Ms. Whitelaw: the thing she has noticed is that there are a lot of pieces, but it is really clearly broken down so you can see what needs to be worked on and what does not.

D. AdHoc school start time committee minutes were distributed.

Mr. Davison: when it came to the Conway School Board, we decided that it is valuable to our students for a later school start. It has been proven that it is beneficial. It comes down to dollars and cents. The research committee said that we should be doing this. He wanted to have more conversation because this impacts a lot of different sections in our district. He was stuck on the fact that the original committee said that we would need 17 more buses. There is a definite rationale for why we need a later school start. It shouldn't come down to finances. He has done a little bit of work, spent time on the phone with the

Portsmouth district. It came from their leadership to do this. If you look at their Superintendent's page, you can find their info. The Portsmouth Superintendent's office modeled their plan after the Oyster River School District. Portsmouth did have to put money into it. If people had an interest, and it does look like it is in the best interest of students, then we would need to form a committee. There's information out there, the rationale as to why they did it. There has been talk about sports. Someone suggested have the athletes practice earlier. If there are board members that would like to join a joint committee, that is why he brought it up. There needs to be more conversation on it.

Ms. Harlow asked if there were others interested in serving on a joint committee.

Ms. Anzaldi: there is someone in Jackson that would be. **Mr. Davison:** there is a valid reason and rationale for why kids should be going to school later in the morning. He thinks this should be driven by the leadership.

Mr. Grant: Portsmouth is not Conway. Their area is a lot more condensed. We have a lot of traveling to do. His solution is to keep the system the way it is. If kids are having a hard time getting up earlier, parents need to make them go to bed earlier.

Mr. Davison: he works in the Fryeburg district; all the kids go to school at the same time, and they are a bigger geographical area as well.

Mr. Richard distributed findings of a couple of surveys that were conducted by the calendar committee.

Mr. Richard distributed a list of the different enrichment program opportunities that kids have access to.

Principal Moylan: Graduation is on the 17th at 10am. Will be moved to the gymnasium in the event of bad weather. Seating also available in auditorium with it projected on the screen.

We had 23 new graduates from Eagle Academy. Kennett dropout rate is at zero. We used to lead the state in that. Our job is to put our students in a position to reach for whatever ring they are wanting. We have come a long, long way. Provided a listing of what colleges graduating seniors will be attending this fall. Sports teams have been doing great and earning state titles. They have done an amazing job. They play the game the right way. They win graciously, and lose with their heads held high. AP programs continue to shine. 32 seniors recognized by the NHIAA as scholar athletes. Our Key Club is the number one fundraising club once again. Our kids donated 10,000 to charities. The next highest was \$1850. Started a Youth and Government club. 24 kids involved this year. Next year they will be offering AP Civics and Government. India Drummond of Conway is Valedictorian, and Nina Badger of Jackson is our Salutatorian. Both kids are humble, kind and exceptional students. Could not have finer representatives for KHS.

Trig star contest was last month. Outdoor state track meet hosted at Kennett last Saturday. For years, he has heard that our kids cannot compete on the SAT. The state is using SAT as a standardized test score. KHS is at or above the

state and country scores. Also displayed a chart showing the growth of the amount of AP students and AP exams taken. UNH cooperative extension did a slow cooker course that was attended by 9 students. Solar powered scoreboards have been installed, one on the girls' field hockey/lacrosse field and one on the boys' soccer/lacrosse field.

Virginia Schrader: we announced our student of the year: Cole Sunover. Cole participated in the NASA Hunch program, that creates parts for the international space station. He has been an integral part of making sure we were successful. He will be going to UNH to study mechanical engineering. Auto students went to NAPA distribution center in Westbrook, ME. It was a really eye-opening for a lot of our students in seeing just how many opportunities this industry has for them. Building Trades: Tiny house was an excellent experience, and they were sad to see it go. They worked right until the end. That house is still on a live auction, and the proceeds will be distributed among the schools that participated. They are now making picnic tables and bookcases. Our CAD program students helped the Bartlett Historical Society in the renovation. Career counseling; we had 13 girls attend a girls' technology day. Computer programming teacher has been accepted to Harvard's program. They are hoping to be able to offer an AP Computer programming class soon. Nursing students went to a lab at Dartmouth, connecting students to all possibilities in the healthcare field. Nasa came to recognize the students for their work and the students got to sign a locker that will be at the space station. Went to Houston in April as they were asked to come to the Johnson Space Center to be honored on the progress they made. They were one of three schools asked to create 'life-critical' hardware. They have already started making plans, NASA has shipped materials. They will be producing handrails for the space station. November/December deadlines. All 5 robotics teams made it to state championships. We have a really strong freshman/sophomore team coming up. We had one freshman team that were given the Build Award for their design and their design notebook. School to career camps: they do this for middle school students so they can see what is offered at the Career/Tech Center. Next year they will offer a Future Educator camp as well. Our teacher education level 2 and 3 classes have been interning at Conway EI and the middle school. These students are teaching right alongside classroom teachers. They're going out and actually doing live teaching. Gave a listing of the awards won by their groups. Inducted 15 students into National Technical Honor Society. Mr. Solomon asked how many students go to the center. Ms. Schrader: 300-400 students.

Rick Biche: we encourage our students to be involved in a number of different things. We had a softball round-robin today. Part of being a middle school student is finding that connection so that as they go into HS they can find a way to remain involved. We have a number of kids that are enrolled in a lot of clubs outside of sports. This was the 9th year that the middle school was involved in the science fair. It is a tremendous example of how you can personalize learning for them as they begin to develop their projects and work with their teachers to

set goals. Just got back from Philadelphia trip. It was his first time there, and it was a fantastic trip. Lots of connections between what they've learned at school and what they learned there. The represented the school and community very well. A big thanks to the parents that planned and fundraised for this, as well as the chaperones. We appreciate all of what they do to make this happen. This time of year is all about transition, they are welcoming up the 6th graders. He has been going out to all the 6th grade classes with a guidance counselor as well as a student. Next week, all the kids will be coming up for tours. Also getting 8th graders ready for High school. They've held a transition dance. Kids from all the sending schools have opportunities to get together. They've done a lot of work on the Standards-based grading as well. Looking to next year, there are a number of different pieces. They are adding a reading class to 8th grade. Because of the additional class they are moving to a block scheduling model. This gives them 6 core academic classes. **Ms. Jarell:** does that mean they can take Spanish one and two? **Mr. Biche:** it is Spanish one, but it is more in depth. Having that practice for all students over two years. This also allows us to shift our RTI time to the middle of the day. That will help us target students to get additional personalized learning. Thinks it will be a great schedule for next year

Meeting dates of September 14, January 25th, June 7th were established for next year.

Mr. Richard asked for some topics people would like to see at the next meeting: Mr. Davison: getting together and being on the same grading system seems like it would be an important one. **Ms. Jarell:** this would have been a conversation to have before you implemented all this. **Mr. Davison:** he's not sure when this happened, but yes, she's right.

Motion: by Joe Ferris, seconded by Ms. Harlow to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King
Recording Secretary