

**December 21, 2011
School Board Meeting
Harrisville School Board
Harrisville School, 5:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Earl Horn, School Board Chair
Pam Thayer, School Board Member
Erik Anderson, School Board Member
Emily Hartshorne, Principal
Wayne Woolridge, Co-Superintendent of Schools
Tim Ruehr, Business Administrator for Towns
Kathy Brady, Recording Secretary

In attendance for all or a portion of the meeting: Doug Viles, Allan Saari, David Belknap, Eric Swope, Courtney Cox, Bob Barnard, Cathy Shanahan, Heri Tryba, Jennifer O'Donnell, Greg Colby

1. Call to Order: Earl Horn called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes as written from October 27, 2011, Board Retreat, November 7, 2011, Regular Board Meeting and December 1, 2011, Special Meeting. Pam Thayer seconded the motion, vote taken, 3 – 0, motion passed.
3. Audit Review: Mr. Greg Colby from the district accounting firm reviewed the Annual Financial Report as of June 30, 2011. Mr. Colby noted significant areas of discussion on page 30 and page 31.

Mr. Belknap, from the audience, had a question on the breakdown on elementary and tuitioned students (in total instruction cost). Mr. Colby stated that it is not broken down.

4. Financial Report: Mr. Ruehr was not able to have his written report ready for this evening (called out last minute to a mediation for another district). However he did review the financial position verbally. The tuition numbers have not changed from last month causing a net balance available of approximately \$90,000.

Use of School as an Emergency Shelter: move to January agenda

Budget Overview 2012 -2013: Mr. Ruehr handed out the budget books to the board and took the time to review the layout of the book. Budget presented for 2013-2013 is \$1,739,269.00, an increase of 3.33%. Mr. Horn noted that the next budget work session would be January 4, 2012.

5. Public Input: Mr. Saari had the following comments/questions:

- Student loans and teacher contracts
- Helpful to have the big numbers broken down
- Excellent article in Common Threads by board

Mr. Heri Tryba:

- Commended Common Threads article
- Hopeful to see long-term strategic planning regarding school and its future
- Would like to see more broader surveys for public input
- Would like to have more of a say in Keene

Mr. David Belknap:

- Thanks for Common Threads article
- Feels forums are not representative of whole community feeling
- Specific questions on budget issues

Ms. Courtney Cox:

- Question on effectiveness of tuitioning students out or not
- Is it good quality education for our children to tuition them out?

Mrs. Cathy Shanahan:

- Presented a signed petition (to become part of minutes)
- Reminded group of the low tax rate in town
- Applauded the board's work

Mr. Eric Swope:

- Agrees that we need to see more public participation in the process
- School is a good center for the community

Mr. Doug Viles:

- Had a comment on having to drive children from middle school, feels that in itself is a "hardship"

Mr. Bob Barnard:

- Feels the school is the soul of the town
- School sold his family on moving to Harrisville

Mr. Heri Tryba:

- Town has many pressing issues, disproportionate amount of money goes to the school

Mr. David Belknap:

- Praise to Emily Hartshorne on her hard work
- Overall budget should be lower, there are places that can still have cuts

6. Reports:

a. Principal: Emily Hartshorne reported on the following:

- Enrollment 44
- Wellness Committee: working to make school a 5-2-1-0. Acting out from KHS will be coming to do a 5-2-1-0 presentation to the school
- Attended a Cheshire County Afterschool Network meeting
- Applying with Marlborough for a 21st century grant, would love a board member to assist
- Conference day on December 9th
- Student teachers
- Working on a planning committee for SAU29 Professional Development
- Potential kindergarten “choice” student
- Student Activities; Janet Altobello, Before and Afterschool breakfast
- Update on Goals

b. Co-Superintendent: Wayne Woolridge reported on the following:

- High School block scheduling to remain same for 2012-2013
- Committee forming to study elementary school closing in Keene
- Senator meetings
- Federal Reserve to drop
- Adequacy Aide
- SAU Budget passed

c. School Board Members: None

d. SAU Committees: Mr. Horn shared information from the SAU Advisory Committee meeting; need to start moving on the SAU Structure Reorganization. Explained the structure of the committee. Will be meeting once or twice a month.

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business:

a. Designation of Board Representative for SAU Structure Review Committee: Earl Horn

b. March Board Meeting Date: Currently on March 21st, changed to March 28th at 5:30 p.m.

c. Other: Mrs. Hartshorne reports that Rob is repainting the old sign. Mr. Horn stated it would be nice to have done for the February 4th Open House.

Discussion ensued on the Sullivan Open Houses to be held

Earn Horn made a motion to accept checks 2003442 – 2003482 in the amount of \$72,965.20, check # 2003441 in the amount of \$186,65 and checks # 2003439 - 2003440 in the amount of \$91.46. Pam Thayer seconded the motion, vote taken, 3 – 0, motion passed.

9. Non-Public Session – R.S.A. 91-A:3

Ms. Thayer moved to enter non-public session to discuss staff/student personnel under the provisions of R.S.A. 91-A:3 at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All in favor. Accompanying the Board was Mr. Woolridge.

Ms. Thayer made a motion for the board to move out of non-public session at 8:46 p.m. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, all in favor.

The Board returned to public session at 8:47 p.m. Mr. Horn shared a conversation he had with the staff prior to the publishing of the most recent Common Threads newsletter. The staff voiced their appreciation to the Board for keeping them informed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Brady
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: 1/1812