

ERVING SCHOOL UNION #28
Joint Supervisory Committee Meeting
FINAL Minutes
November 19, 2014

PRESENT: Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, Scott Bastarache, Jenn Chylack, Mare Fox, Dan Hayes, Alan Mully, Sean Woodard-McNiff, Michael Yohan, and Jess Zaykoski members; Matthew Galman, U28 Accountant and Bob Mahler, Superintendent;

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by chairperson, Dan Hayes.
2. There were introductions of committee members as new people have joined the Supervisory Committee.
3. There was no public comment.
4. Minutes—On a motion made by Scott Bastarache and seconded by Sean Woodard-McNiff, the minutes of the meeting on September 23, 2014 were approved as written by a unanimous vote.
5. Budget and Personnel Committee Update:

Superintendent Search: The committee was informed of the status of the search, which is now closed. There are 32 applications and all applications are available for examination. However, the applications have been divided into two groups – a primary group and a secondary group. The screening committee is meeting on November 24th to decide on the candidates to interview, with interviews tentatively scheduled for the week of December 8th. The superintendent survey received 120 replies split almost evenly amongst staff, parents and community members. In addition, there were 160 written responses in the comment areas. The screening committee will review the survey results as part of their selection process.

FY 16 Draft of Union #28 Budget: Matthew Galman, newly hired Union 28 Accountant presented the FY 16 budget. Matt put forward the driver page which illustrated the changes (both increases and decreases) in the different line items. Discussion followed and there were two changes made to the budget. An additional sum of \$3000 was added to line #31 (U28 Professional Development) to be used for the expansion of union-wide efforts to train and develop the teaching staff. A motion was made by Sean Woodard-McNiff and seconded by Johanna Bartlett for this change and passed 8-2. An additional sum of \$450 was added to the total budget to cover the cost of a minute taker for the Supervisory and Budget and Personnel Committee meetings. A motion was made by Scott Bastarache and seconded by Johanna Bartlett for this change and passed 8-2. The new total for the FY 16 budget of \$552,019 was approved by a 9-1 vote following a motion Sean Woodard-McNiff and seconded by Scott Bastarache.

Policy Review: The Committee discussed the need for a sub-committee to review policies. Sean Woodard-McNiff offered to review the policies and work with Dan Hayes and Bob Mahler to coordinate the orderly processing of policies at future meetings.

6. Regionalization Update: There was a discussion of what was believed to be the current state of the Regional Agreement Working Group (RAWG). Best information is that they will be making a presentation to the Amherst Regional School Committee and that committee will then discuss the proposed amendments and take further action. It was thought that local towns would have the opportunity to vote on the amendments in the spring of 2015. There will be two votes in each community one to amend the present agreement and the second to join the amended regional structure. A number of committee members commented on the idea of local control and how this proposed change would work against such a governance configuration.
7. News and Updates from each school:
There was a surge of conversation about standardized testing and how the committee would inform legislators of their opinion. There was also talk of bringing MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher to

the meeting as a means to expand the conversation to a more statewide audience. It was decided to formalize the conversation by placing the topic on the agenda for the next meeting.

Each reporter spoke very highly of their respective principals—the respect for the work and the spirit that each administrator brings to the school was clearly articulated.

Shutesbury: school is running smoothly with new energy lifting the spirit of the school; there is a talented staff; and a new program that has created a student council.

Erving: a second pre-school teacher was recently hired to accommodate the large group of children; the preschool has expanded from a half day program to a full day program; there was a recent assembly honoring Veterans Day – it was attended by 32 local vets; there is an effort to look into the capital improvements and increased energy efficiency of the school; the after-school program is looking to create closer link to the school day by providing activities such as reading and technology linked programs.

Leverett: there is a great appreciation of the uniqueness of the school with its greenhouse and distinctive food services program; there are concerns that the regionalization efforts will undermine the very qualities that create such a unique program; there is great support, enthusiasm and positive energy from the families for the school.

Swift River: Parent/teacher conferences just ended; the introduction of the Lucy Caulkins writing program continues into its second year; the fifth grade successfully hosted a Living History Museum night; the 100 mile club continues and now has an outdoor track to support everyone's efforts including the morning track club (held two days a week before school); the breakfast and lunch programs have shown a 25-30% increase in participation; overall enrollment is up to 152; and the school recently increased the school psychologist to full-time.

8. Superintendent's report: Recently received funding for the Talk, Read and Play program that focuses on increasing the language skills of infants and toddlers in Erving. This program is being piloted for six months and includes home-based programming in engaging young children in developmentally appropriate activities and helping to model positive play behaviors with parents. There was also a brief description of Job Alike activities and programs that are taking place this year and are closely connected to the full-day curriculum training days.
9. A motion to adjourn was made by Johanna Bartlett and seconded by Mike Yohan to enter Executive Session to discuss the setting of parameters for contract negotiations and not to return to Open Session. Baldwin, aye; Bartlett, aye; Bastarache, aye; Chylack, aye; Fox, aye; Hayes, aye; Mully, aye; Woodard-McNiff, aye; Yohan, aye; and Zaykoski, aye,

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Mahler