

ERVING SCHOOL UNION #28
Joint Supervisory Committee Meeting
FINAL Minutes
September 23, 2014

PRESENT: Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, Scott Bastarache, Jenn Chylack, Kip Fonsh, Mare Fox, Carla Halpern, Dan Hayes, Michael Yohan, and Jess Zaykoski members; Bob Mahler Superintendent; Craig Riley, reporter Athol Daily News.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Reorganization: on a motion by Michael Yohan, seconded by Johanna Bartlett, Dan Hayes was nominated as chair and elected by a unanimous vote. It was decided to reorganize at this meeting in order to keep on a consistent schedule (the first meeting of the year) for the reorganization process. This motion was followed by a second motion made by Kip Fonsh and seconded by Carla Halpern to maintain the officers as elected at the prior Joint Supervisory Committee Meeting in July. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Minutes—On a motion made by Kip Fonsh and seconded by Scott Bastarache, the minutes of the meeting on July 29, 2014 were approved as written by a unanimous vote with two abstentions. Budget and Personnel Committee – update was given on the Business Manager’s search. That pursuit has changed to a search for an accountant. This would be a temporary position ending on June 30, 2015. The committee received five applications and interviewed two of the candidates. Bob has interviewed one of the candidates for a second time and is in the process of checking references. The plan is for this search to be completed later this week. There was discussion regarding the Central Office staff and their role during the time that there is no Business Manager. On a motion by Kip Fonsh, seconded by Scott Bastarache, the Supervisory Committee followed a Budget and Personnel recommendation that the four members of the Central Office staff receive a \$500 stipend to honor their work and efforts this year. The motion passed unanimously.
Update on the Superintendent search included a discussion of the process and desire to form a committee that includes all of the major stakeholder groups. Although this may mean a large committee, it was felt that this was the most transparent way to proceed. The contact people for the search committee shall be Dan Hayes and Johanna Bartlett. The central office shall provide the necessary administrative support. A timeline for events was discussed and the plan is that the search is successfully concluded by January 2015 with a starting date of July 1st. The Search Committee is responsible for the structure and procedures of the application process; ultimately it is the Joint Supervisory Committee that makes the final decision. There was a motion by Carla Halpern, seconded by Johanna Bartlett to establish a search committee and go forward with the design and implementation of a survey for the purpose to gather input from the stakeholders in Union 28. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Regionalization Update: Kip Fonsh made a brief presentation regarding the status of the Regional Agreement Working Group (RAWG). There have been several meetings over the summer and the group has hired David Singer as a mediator to help facilitate the discussion regarding the final five major issues. Assuming that consensus can be reached about these concerns, a draft proposal of the amendments to the regional agreement will then be forwarded to the Amherst Regional School Committee. It is the intent of that committee to finalize the proposed changes prior to town meetings in the spring of 2015. The concluding action of the process will be the votes by the town meetings regarding the proposed changes. There are also required votes by the respective school committees regarding any change in status. There is still a great deal that needs to take place if there is to be any change in the configuration of Union 28. The next meeting of the RAWG is set for September 30.
5. Teacher Evaluation Update: There was a brief report by the superintendent regarding the work done by administration and teachers for the educator evaluation. The schools are using the OASYS software to reduce some of the workload for all participants. The principals are continuing to receive training and technical assistance in the use of the system. Questions were raised about the time spent on the process and the value for improving the skills of the teachers. This led into the discussion about standardized testing.
6. PARCC/MCAS: there was a great deal of discussion about the value of the MCAS testing and the use of PARCC in the coming year. Frustration was expressed regarding the testing environment that has invaded the schools and the ultimate value of the tests and the use of the information. It was suggested that each school committee discuss the issue in detail at their regularly scheduled meeting and that ultimately the Joint Supervisory Committee consider writing a letter to the elected representatives (Kulik and Rosenberg) to express the opinions as generated from the local school committees.

7. Policy Review: after a brief discussion it was the general sense of the group that there is no current need for a Union 28 policy committee. Each individual school committee has an operating Policy Committee and that met the needs of each school.
8. News/Updates from each town: Dan Hayes suggested that time be spent at each Joint Supervisory Committee Meeting to discuss the highlights and special events from each school. After a brief discussion Carla Halpern moved and Johanna Bartlett seconded a motion to add an agenda item to the Joint Supervisory Committee Meeting for brief (two to three minutes) updates from each school. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Superintendent Evaluation: Scott Bastarache made a motion seconded by Kip Fonsh to form a Superintendent Evaluation sub-committee to aid in the formulation of goals and oversee the evaluation process. The motion passed unanimously. Scott Bastarache and Dan Hayes agreed to be the members of the committee.
10. A motion to adjourn was made by Carla Halpern and seconded by Kip Fonsh. Unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Mahler