

SAU 21 Joint School Board Meeting and Update (Monday, June 15, 2020)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Monday, June 15, 2020

Members present

Greg Parish, Jim Kime, John Bailly, Rebecca Burdick, Sharon Gordon, Thomas von Jess, Heidi Taracena, Jason Farias, Jennifer Hubbard, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson, Tony Delano, Jill Swasey, Gregg Duffy, Erin Stanton, Jessica Brown, Michael Rabideau, Kelli Hueber, Henry Marsh, Leslie Lafond

Superintendent Bill Lupini, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Executive Director of Student Services Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Matt Ferreira

Absent: Greg Marrow, Forrest Carter, Jr.

Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM

1. Call to Order

Procedural: A. Roll Call

Chair Jim Kime opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. by reading the following statement:

As Chair of the SAU 21 Joint School Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means: We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting.1 All members of the SAU 21 Joint School Board, have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone# 646-876-9923, Webinar ID# 919 1794 1745 and or by clicking on the following website address: (listed on the agenda)

<https://zoom.us/j/91917941745>

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the SAU 21 Office at www.sau21.org.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-926-8992 ext. 103 or email at revans@sau21.org

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law

Procedural: B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. May 26, 2020 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2020 Meeting.

Motion by Henry Marsh, second by Michael Rabideau.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Greg Parish, Gregg Duffy, Henry Marsh, Jim Kime, John Bailly, Leslie Lafond, Michael Rabideau, Rebecca Burdick, Thomas von Jess, Heidi Taracena, Jason Farias, Kelli Hueber, Nermina Peterson, Tony Delano, Jill Swasey

Abstain: Jessica Brown, Sharon Gordon, Jennifer Hubbard, Martin Tavitian

Not Present at Vote: Erin Stanton

3. Action Items

Information, Action: A. Memorandum of Agreement

Erin Stanton joined the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association, governing temporary modifications to the collective bargaining agreement through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion by Henry Marsh, second by Erin Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Greg Parish, Gregg Duffy, Henry Marsh, Jessica Brown, Jim Kime, John Bailly, Leslie Lafond, Michael Rabideau, Rebecca Burdick, Sharon Gordon, Thomas von Jess, Heidi Taracena, Jason Farias, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson, Tony Delano, Jill Swasey

4. Other Business

Information: A. Return to School Task Force Update

Dr. Lupini reported that purpose for this meeting was to report back to the Joint Board on the results of the Return to School Task Force. An employee forum will be held tomorrow morning followed by the community forum held jointly with SAU 90 tomorrow night. All Committee Chairs are present at this meeting and will report of their individual groups. There is a State wide group that is expected to have their draft ready by the end of June but nothing from the State level has met their timeline thus far. We are also talking with neighboring districts as this only make sense to be cooperative for families. The focus of

everyone's work is to go back to school.

One thing we won't have tonight are definite answers. Tonight and tomorrow are intended to be informative, letting you know what we're looking at, what concerns we have, and to gather your questions and feedback.

Donna Couture and Jason Saltmarsh, both Winnacunnet staff members were introduced.

Ms. Couture is the Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Coordinator and chaired the Post Secondary working group and explained their work focused on the classes of 2020 and 2021. Membership consisted of Guidance counselors, alumni association, transition coordinator, adult education program, class advisors, WHS administrators and Principal Walter Huston to represent our South Hampton students. The initial focus was on how drastically Covid-19 has changed the graduates' plans for college and entering the work force. They have recognized that students may change their plans and stay closer to home due to the pandemic, some may choose a gap year, and for some that had planned on going into employment may not have the opportunities available as 25% of people ages 19-24 have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Some students are choosing community college instead of a 4-year university. As the information is gathered the group will apply what they are learning to help with the class of 2021. They are proposing a short term position of an Alumni Relations Coordinator to help analyze current student data, conduct survey and interviews of the 180-day school graduates and the 28-night school graduates to see if they were able to achieve their plans and to provide a support structure for students that may need additional counseling.

There are many events normally planned for the senior class such as mini college fair, parent nights, individual student meetings, career fair, and the alumni fair. They have determined the need for a contingency plan for these events so that there is minimal disruption for the class of 2021. They realized they were in crisis mode as the end of this current year took place for the class of 2020 and want to be proactive for the class of 2021 by keeping them well-informed and staying up-to-date with the rapid changes.

We will see changes in higher ed in the future. Discussed admissions challenges that may be faced by the class of 2021 with students from 2020 deferring and taking gap years, etc. We are one of two high schools in the state that have a college counselor.

Henry Marsh reported, as a member of the collegiate board, many colleges are in flex and are dropping various sports, etc. Some colleges are granting a 1-year deferment but financial aid is of concern.

Dr. Hobbs - Return to Instruction - Reported that after several weeks of work of 41 members and a 25-page document with recommendations, the end goal is to get kids safely back into school learning.

They began conversations with a hybrid model which is very tricky in many ways, from an economic standpoint for parents, it would be very difficult. They realize a need to work in conjunction with neighboring districts as things could vary widely.

3 models were considered: Face to face, remote and a rolling closure.

Highlights of the face to face with safety provisions included discussions on how can we use staff more efficiently? How can we get creative with larger spaces? Outdoor spaces? The PPE that is necessary with each of those scenarios. The SEL component has also been a huge consideration. Student aren't going to learn unless they feel safe and comfortable. They also realize that all classes need an online space as there may be the need to toggle back and forth with in-class to remote learning due to the virus. We need to understand some students will still need to work from home. There is an emphasis on curriculum alignment and addressing students gaps in learning.

We also need to understand that not only will there be students but teachers as well that may not be able to come back into the building. We will need a better number of this population and that this may be a shifting number and a shifting population depending on outbreaks. "Room and Zoom" may become a possibility but has a host of complicated issues with union and curriculum wise.

Teachers need to work around the needs of students, this is a traumatic event for all. Conversations need to happen around all of this as well as technology, curricular and traditional professional development.

For remote learning and/or rolling schedules we need to have a remote schedule ready when needed. Designated times are needed, longer class periods that work on project based learning that include non-screen time. Interaction is necessary, 2-way communication with students is important. We learned that Team orientated teaching with a number of teachers, case managers, and specialists involved was the most successful versus individual teaching by one. The inclusion of Unified Arts has been helpful. There will be scheduling implications that have to be worked out. There is also a necessity for teachers to access the building during remote learning. Teachers may need to broadcast their teaching from inside their classroom. There is the possible need for the physical transfer of materials, work books, etc. Concerns also exist regarding the minimum expectations for teaching hours and schedules.

Leslie Lafond left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Gregg Duffy left at 5:48

Questions and discussions with Board members included grade levels that had a harder time with remote learning. The SEL of students and if any student/age level has had a more difficult time with regard to learning, social skills, etc. We have a great team of Educational Associates and how to leverage them and help them be successful in the remote learning environment. Some EA's participated in the working groups. Classroom supports were not used enough this past spring. We plan to be better at this moving forward. Complications that exist around the recording of classroom teaching was discussed. Discussed on-boarding of incoming kindergarten families.

Henry Marsh left the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Dr. Arakelian - Crisis Response - Reported that this group is the least scenario dependent as Crisis Response is necessary in all three scenarios to support mental health and wellness. Their focus was to create supportive learning environments, enhancing social and emotional competencies, and thrive. They have used the CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning) document as their guide. Subgroups aligned with their criteria. Focus on students, staff and crisis response. We are fortunate that SAU 21 already has a foundation built around this. Recommendations include establishing building level SEL teams, assess where we are, using common language among all groups to promote understanding, long term and short term, overlap with other working groups. Supports will be put in place for staff and students.

The student SEL group recommends assessing the multi tiered teams within buildings to support students. Several buildings already have teams in place. Recommendation to screen students through surveys during the summer and throughout the year

for mental and behavior interventions. They have outlined a plan to use data throughout the year to make recommendations to make sure all tiers are fully utilized. Recommending a care coordinator position to support universal needs assessment, manage results, assess barriers within districts, sit on each districts team.

The adult subgroup designed opportunities for adults to connect and heal. Also provided for considerations for staff coming into buildings or continuing with remote learning. When staff are supported well, they can support students well. The compassion, fatigue, self reflection survey was sent out to all staff. Interesting results were received. Staff reported feeling isolation, loneliness, and needing connection. We need professional development to support staff, having open time to allow adjustment to be back together. The group will support professional development for connection and reflection and the continuation for online opportunities.

Crisis Response subgroup has an overlay with operations and the safety and security task force. How we respond to crisis and mental health. A library of resources was created to connect staff and families with recreational and referral resources.

Establishing a crisis response mechanism. This work began prior to Covid-19 and the importance during this pandemic was realized. Raymond Pillsbury is the Crisis Response Coordinator.

Public comment received about issues with students wearing PPE and/or whether they will be allowed outside with parents permission. Discussed issues that may prevent students and staff from wearing masks.

Jason Saltmarsh - Technology - Reported that it is rare to see an entire institution embrace technology as has occurred with Covid-19. We were fairly well set with 1-to-1 program and this helped us out quite a bit. Unfortunately the digital divide still exists. We provided hot spots but even providing this was not always enough as they may not have a strong enough signal or live where one was available. The Governor announced an initiative to bring broadband into those areas of the state. We hope that some of our families will benefit from this.

Learned that not all districts were equal and that flexibility among districts is needed. Struggled with technical support in the home. A survey was distributed to students, families, and teachers, with remarkably similar responses among all and all grade levels. Requests were for better organization, pairing down of apps used by schools and teachers and for a more streamlined communication platform. Making similar platforms among grades for parents to see different grade students. Predictable schedules, more standardization. More live interaction between students and teachers. A consistent reply was that remote learning cannot replace actual face to face.

Recommendations include an SAU wide list of online applications for use by all districts, focus on replacing desktops with more laptops and touch screens. Devices need to be portable for administrative assistants as well. Creating tutorials to assist teachers, parents and students with online learning.

Matt Ferreira - Operations - He thanked all committee members for their time and effort put into developing a cogent, flexible plan considering the constant evolving situation. Their recommendations considered at this time are based on current research and guidelines as available, but will continue to evolve based on CDC and state guidelines. Some overarching goals were developed for food service, facilities, transportation, and athletics.

Sanitizing is not only needed daily but could be hourly or on an as needed basis determined by the area. Screening of visitors, ensure that all students receive timely and safe passage to and from school. Ensure student safely participate in intra-school athletics.

Recommendations brought forth at SAU level will be vetted through guidance and recommendations provided by the CDC, USDA, Dept of Transportation, NHIAA, and DHHS. Each school will have unique individualized action plan based on higher level recommendations.

The major challenge for the in-person scenario is social distancing. We do not have enough necessary space in buildings or on buses to follow the 6-ft guidance. This doesn't even take into consideration the students gathering for various activities. This will be the major obstacle. Dining may need to occur in the classrooms. For example staff would need to deliver meals, staff would be needed to observe the students during lunch, the cleaning and disposal of materials, designating an allergy area, proper handling of food deliveries, and proper handling of food prep. A stream lined food menu would be necessary, all disposable paper products, daily and nightly sanitizing and disinfecting, and training for all staff on such matters. All departments will need additional training on the operation issues.

Jessica Brown left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Isolated areas will be needed for any students or staff that may exhibit symptoms during the school day. The CDC recommends any and all students over age 2 wear face masks. As much social distancing as possible while on school grounds. Signage, floor markings etc will be necessary. We would minimize the number of belongs brought to school. Maximizing electronic and phone communication is needed. We need to analyze staff willingness to return to school, as well as student willingness. Need to review the procedures for sick students and staff and coming to school while feeling 'under the weather'.

Currently, in the process of purchasing a fingerprint scanner for staff and parent volunteers.

Transportation survey will need to go out to determine ridership. Plexiglass barriers are not allowed on buses for safety reasons. Daily bus sanitizing, signage for safety guidelines, also applies to school owned vehicles. We will be looking to the Department of Transportation for guidance.

Mike Rabideau left the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Erin Stanton left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

We will look to the local Police Departments for recommendations for traffic assistance for drop off and pick-up times. We will need to establish guidelines for parent car pooling.

Athletics will be an NHIAA decision. Social distancing will need to be observed, the use of face masks, 6' marking of bleachers, locker rooms will be closed. Students will need to transport and clean their own equipment.

It was reiterated that this is all high level guidance but will become more granular at the school level.

Kelli Hueber left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Dr. Lupini reported that there is a lot of discussion going on among many schools and colleges about the fall sports season.

Some are considering moving contact sports to the spring and holding non-contact sports in the fall. Either way we are waiting for the NHIAA to make a recommendation.

Board members discussed their thoughts after hearing about the many challenges being faced in order to open schools.

Understanding the need to be flexible and waiting for what the guidelines will look like closer to August.

Dr. Lupini reported this information will be presented to staff tomorrow morning followed by a community forum tomorrow evening where it will be presented to the public.

He thanked everyone that has participated on the working groups and reported that close to 100 people that have been involved and put a lot of time and effort into what was presented tonight.

5. Questions and Comments from those in Attendance

Procedural: A. **Public Comment** - No public comments were received.

6. Non-Public Under RSA 91-A:3 II (a-e)

Procedural: A. **Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a-e)**. - Not needed.

7. Resume Public Meeting

Procedural: A. **Resume Public Meeting after Non-Public Session**. - Not needed.

8. Future Meetings

Information: A. **Winnacunnet School Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

Information: B. **Joint Board Policy Committee Meeting - Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

Information: C. **South Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

Information: D. **North Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

Information: E. **Seabrook School Board Meeting - Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

Information: F. **Hampton Falls School Board Meeting - Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

9. Adjourn

Action: A. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Motion by Thomas von Jess, second by Nermina Peterson.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Greg Parish, Jim Kime, John Bailly, Rebecca Burdick, Sharon Gordon, Thomas von Jess, Heidi Taracena, Jason Farias, Jennifer Hubbard, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson, Tony Delano, Jill Swasey