

Cornish School District
SAU Transition Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2017 3:15pm
Cornish Elementary School
Town House Road

PRESENT: Nicole Saginor, Heidi Jaarsma, Merylynn Bourne, Justin Ranney, Larry Dingee, Linda Fuerst, Beth Lum, Kelly Patterson- Parry, Dan Poor, Jennifer Prileson, Caroline Storrs, Rebecca Rumrill

1. Nicole Saginor called the meeting to order at 3:20pm.
2. Approval of Agenda: Nicole passed out the agenda. Merylynn Bourne moved the Agenda as presented, seconded by Dan Poor. The vote was in the affirmative.
3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Heidi Jaarsma moved the minutes as presented, seconded by Merylynn Bourne. The vote to approve was unanimous.
4. Reports from Sub-committees:

a. Budget :

Nicole Saginor presented the most recent budget. The total expense is \$202,717 which includes four new computers. Justin Ranney asked about the cost. Jennifer commented that the technology committee will be meeting on the 23rd and will discuss pricing. Justin followed up with questions about the copier lease. The school has two (2) now; is it practical to have the SAU use one of them. Heidi commented that confidentiality is an issue so the SAU would like its own. Perhaps if it's part of a larger lease it will be less expensive. The \$202,717 includes all one time costs. Larry Dingee asked about the one time items going into the warrant as separate warrant articles. Justin feels it is more appropriate to show it in the budget so it does not appear that we are level funding when we are not. Larry feels that showing it in the budget this year will affect how the budget looks against the next year's budget. Heidi Jaarsma explained that you are not allowed to overspend when you use separate warrant articles so it is more advisable to have those costs in the budget. Heidi recommends that we ask Mike O'Neil what the best practice would be. Larry mentioned that "we are all good" with funds for new bank accounts.

b. High School Contracts:

Nicole Saginor reported that she has spoken with Windsor, Claremont and Hartford High Schools and has an appointment with Lebanon High School. These four will be our designated schools. Hanover would be ancillary and we will not be assigning students there. The tuitions for the designated schools are: Lebanon, \$15,761; Stevens, \$14,500; Windsor, \$16,355 and Hartford \$17,200. The school district will contract with these four schools. The School Board will set an annual tuition rate "cap". If parents choose to send a child to a non-designated school, they will pay the difference between the "cap" and the non-designated school's tuition, if it is greater than the "cap". This process is approved by the Department of Education. Jennifer brought up vocational schools. Nicole said it would be the same process with the town paying only the Board set rate. Rebecca Rumrill asked what happens when a student leaves town. Nicole explained that the amount charged would be pro-rated. Justin Ranney asked what would

happen if a designated school dramatically increases their tuition. Are we obligated to use that school? Nicole will talk to school counsel about such an event. Nicole feels confident that we would most likely not encounter that situation. Area high schools are eager to have our students and some are even willing to send a bus.

c. Facilities Update:

Heidi Jaarsma reported that Unity has furniture they are offering to Cornish School. SAU staff will all have places to sit. There are 8 office chairs and two (20) dividers. The committee will now search for desks. Fire proof safes will be purchased once we know what size we need. SAU6 will be asked to let us know what the storage need is.

d. Community Outreach/Branding:

Jennifer Prileson reports that the Tuck School group is coming to the Faculty meeting January 24 and will present what they have to date. They will take our feedback and return with a final set of designs. Linda Fuerst asked to remind that group that she would like her documents back when they are finished.

e. Education:

Jennifer Prileson presented minutes from her sub-committee. She reported that the group discussed priorities. They covered what we are doing now that is not formalized in the schedule: things like news broadcasts, newspaper submissions, special events such as dramatizations. No foreign language yet but they are exploring opportunities. Some language work could be done on line but would need support staff. Nicole reminded the group about the foreign language program at Plainfield. There might be opportunities for foreign language next year. Jennifer feels that what ever we do there will be a funding need. There is a solid argument for hiring a math specialist. Nicole feels we should look into partnering with Plainfield. Jennifer commented that more time is needed for things like PE, Art and Music. Highest priority: Math Performance Improvement. Linda Fuerst stated that the emphasis was to keep "the good stuff going". Caroline Storrs added, "support Jennifer in what she is doing".

6. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Review tasks to be completed before July 1, 2017.
- b. Web site set up

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 3:15pm

There being no further business, Caroline Storrs moved to adjourn at 4:33pm, seconded by Justin Ranney.

The vote was in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Merilynn Bourne
School District Clerk & Transition Committee Secretary