***SAU6 Study Committee***

***10/26/2015***

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM by Heidi Jaarsma.

Present: Heidi Jaarsma, Nicole Saginor, Sandra Carlson, Justin Ranney, Holly Taft, William Palmer, Peter Lynch

Revisions to Agenda: Heidi Jaarsma suggested that we amend the agenda as follows:

1. Discuss the Preliminary Budget Projection Spreadsheets which are online at CornishNH.net
2. Discuss the meeting Heidi Jaarsma had with Principal Jennifer Prileson
3. Discuss Single District SAU

William Palmer moved the changes in the agenda; seconded by Sandra Carlson. Motion Passed

Review of past meeting minutes: Justin Ranney pointed out, his name was misspelled on Page 2 Paragraph 9.

Justin Ranney and Sandra Carlson moved the minutes be approved as revised. Motion Passed.

Preliminary Budget Study Spreadsheet: (see on CornishNH.org)

Heidi Jaarsma presented actual numbers of SAU6 costs vs. what we might expect as a Single District SAU purchasing services from Plainfield and/or Windsor SE Supervisory Union (WSESU), carefully pointing out that these projections were both preliminary and subject to change upon further review.

Nicole Saginor discussed benefits that might be derived by purchasing Technical Services from WSESU, stating that, currently aspects of technology come to a halt if problems are experienced due to the lack of timely support from SAU6, citing a current problem that may not be resolved until December. She added WSESU has a comprehensive team that can provide immediate emergency response.

Further board discussion addressed the possibility of purchasing Superintendent from Windsor as well and what that might look like.

William Palmer asked, under this sort of arrangement, who would insure we were in compliance with NH regulations.

Nicole Saginor shared that the WSESU Superintendent was NH licensed.

Heidi Jaarsma opened the discussion to the public.

George Edson asked who would be responsible for renewing contracts and the Hiring/Firing process.

Nicole Saginor stated this was always a School Board function. Justin Ranney concurred.

Nicole Saginor and William Palmer stated that in the past, the Superintendent offered suggestions and the School Board made the decisions.

Caroline Storrs further offered that the interview process involved the teachers and the School Board.

Heidi Jaarsma pointed out that moving forward, we need to develop a formal scope of work and solidify the numbers.

Addressing technology, Nicole Saginor explained how the WSESU system would work and the many benefits the school would enjoy vs. the SAU6 system. Benefits would include onsite technical consulting and emergency services.

William Palmer pointed out that finding the technical integrator for the school would be very important.

Justin Ranney stated that SAU6 was also improving their technical services and eliminating Systems Plus as their hardware support.

George Edson stated that the SAU6 proposed budget increase of 13% was excessive.

Heidi Jaarsma shared the conversation she had with the current Principal, Jennifer Prileson. Mrs. Prileson said she valued the support she received through SAU6 and that issues like curriculum coordination were topics that she needed to work with other professionals that had the same curriculum challenges.

Heidi Jaarsma then reviewed the goals of the committee and asked the committee if they thought going forward with the Single SAU plan might hurt the school that has experienced so much change in the past couple of years.

Holly Taft stated that there was lots of information to take in and that this new plan would cause tumult and hurt.

Peter Lynch offered, the town asked for us to find alternate solutions to SAU6 because of their displeasure with that organization and as for the drastic changes in staff; that is a cause and effect problem largely generated by the Superintendent and SAU.

Justin Ranney stated that he had serious concerns with the Single SAU plan. With new staff in the school this might place increased pressure on the Principal.

William Palmer stated that with all of the pressure to cut the budget, the increases in the SAU budget and decreased enrollment, we have to do something. Sharing program positions with other schools will save money and possibly allow the school to have and keep teachers in Arts, Foreign Language and Physical Education.

Sandra Carlson asked if, as a Single SAU we could purchase services such as curriculum Coordinator from SAU6.

Heidi Jaarsma said she had met with Middleton McGoodwin and indicated, he didn’t say no and he didn’t say yes.

Nicole Saginor stated that the Department of Education will approve any plan that makes sense. We can pick and choose our services and where to purchase them. The principal will have support and feedback from Plainfield and Windsor with Curriculum issues. She continued stating that Monroe NH is a school very much like ours that became a single SAU and love it. Aligning with a school like Plainfield might be more helpful. If we come up with a good plan it will create calm not chaos in the school.

Nicole Saginor made a motion to pursue the formation of a Single SAU, purchasing services from both Plainfield and WSESU. Seconded by William Palmer.

Heidi Jaarsma shared that there was a great deal of work still to be done.

Nicole Saginor offered to work with the Plainfield and WSESU Superintendents to get a plan together.

William Palmer stated we need to leave the towns options open to preserve autonomy.

Alecia Simino said she thinks the children will suffer, and asked that feelings for Dr. McGoodwin be put aside.

Heidi Jaarsma stated that we will need to be very thorough.

Holly Taft suggested that it wasn’t a good idea to move to a single district.

Caroline Storrs shared that Newport NH recently put forth a plan to leave their SAU, and that perhaps looking at their plan might help in our process.

Nicole Saginor stated we have many similar reports.

Susan Chandler also suggested the School Board Chair talk with other communities with similar plans to allay any doubts he might have.

Linda Fuerst advised the committee to avoid comments about Dr. McGoodwin.

Holly Taft advised that there was a great deal of work if we go forward and a big change in governance.

Susan Chandler asked, if the motion passes will this eliminate our purchasing services from others.

Heidi Jaarsma responded, we need to narrow our focus.

William Palmer offered, if we become a single SAU we can change our minds in five yrs.

Heidi Jaarsma stated, we will have the power of the purse.

Linda Fuerst stated, if you do not act now, you will miss your opportunity.

The motion was voted upon and passed 5-1.

Future actions:

Trip to Monroe NH 11/3

Heidi Jaarsma will set a time to meet with Plainfield to present the list of services for purchase.

Motion to adjourn by Holly Taft, second by Justin Ranney; motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Lynch, Secretary