

**Cornish SAU 6 Study Committee**

**9/08/14**

**Members Present:** Heidi Jaarsma, Sandy Carlson, Middleton McGoodwin, Nicole Saginor, Bill Palmer, Pete Lynch

**Absent:** Troy Simino, Holly Taft

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

**Minutes:** Minutes from the 8/11/2014 were reviewed.

Bill Palmer asked that his comment made during the discussion of the Charge of the Committee be changed. The minutes stated; Bill Palmer stated that, "if we decide to withdraw, everything would need to be done by March 15<sup>th</sup> 2015". Mr. Palmer suggested his comment was a question. The minutes were changed to read; Bill Palmer asked, "if we decide to withdraw, would everything have to be done by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015?"

Heidi Jaarsma also asked that the minutes be changed to indicate that she is the mother of four children in the school system, and this is her primary motivation for being on the committee.

Bill Palmer and Sandi Carlson moved that the minutes be accepted as amended.

The motion Passed.

**Agenda revision:** Heidi Jaarsma requested we change the agenda to allow a quick commentary on the committee website.

Sandi Carlson and Pete Lynch moved the revision.

The motion Passed

**Agenda items:**

Heidi shared that the Select board unanimously voted to allow the committee to have a page on the town website. Heidi indicated she had set this up and that all committee business would be entered there.

Heidi then asked if it was OK to enter the names of the committee members to the website. All agreed.

*Dr. Middleton McGoodwin presented a six page document titled; The Statutory List of Superintendent Services Requirements per NH RSA 194-C:4.*

*Nicole Saginor pointed out that the services outlined were not necessarily provided by the Superintendent. Many of the items were provided by others in the SAU under his oversight.*

*Bill Palmer added that, when looking at how Plainfield met the requirements, he found that there were many individuals with multiple roles. For example, the person who was the business manager might also be the Athletic director.*

*Mariann Thompson asked, what was the percentage of the SAU budget Cornish was responsible for?*

*She was informed it was approximately 11%, a number derived from enrollment numbers and Property tax values.*

*Nicole Saginor then presented a power point created by committee members that also addressed the statutory requirements of the SAU per RSA 194 C:4, as well as two alternative plans to meet these requirements apart from participating in SAU 6.*

***This power point presentation may be found on the Town of Cornish website.***

***www.cornishnh.net***

*Community comment:*

*Linda Fuerst stated that she appreciated the presentation. It allowed her to see more clearly what was involved in administering services to the school, and what possible alternatives might look like.*

*Beth Long asked about the cost of alternative plans.*

*Nicole Saginor responded that the committee had not gotten that far yet. We need to look at alternatives and then cost them out.*

*Marriann Thompson thanked the committee for their work and asked if we had looked at other small communities to see how they had done things.*

*Heidi Jaarsma stated this was our next step, and that we would look at other communities soon.*

*Jim Borchert thanked the committee for clear and good work.*

*Middleton McGoodwin made a presentation regarding the restructuring currently going on in SAU 6 along with financial costs. A one year plan, intended to make the SAU more efficient and utilize the talents of current staff in a more productive fashion.*

**Details can be found on the SAU 6 website. [www.sau6k12.nh.us](http://www.sau6k12.nh.us)**

*Heidi Jaarsma asked if this was a transitional program.*

*Dr. McGoodwin said it was and we could see changes in jobs and responsibilities as we went forward, including the hiring of an Assistant Superintendent of Schools.*

*Heidi Jaarsma continued her questions, asking if the restructuring plan was the end plan, or would we looking at an Assistant Superintendent and Curriculum coordinator being hired.*

*Dr. McGoodwin indicated it was likely the current plan would change and we would see additional hiring.*

*Further discussions centered on the cost of the restructuring, and what it would mean to Cornish in FY 2015-16.*

*Nicole Saginor asked about the Director of Human Resources position. She stated that Supervision and evaluation of staff was not normally associated with that position, so who would she be supervising.*

*Dr. McGoodwin indicated that would be two office assistants.*

*Nicole Saginor replied that the Supervision and Evaluation addition to the job responsibilities was misleading, leading one to believe that it was a much broader role than it appeared.*

*Bill Palmer asked about the formula for our share of the SAU cost: is it a state wide formula?*

*Heidi Jaarsma indicated it was.*

*Nicole Saginor stressed that we focus and understand what we are getting for our money so we can properly assess the quality and value of alternative plans.*

*Community Comment:*

*Mariann Thompson thanked the committee for their work, and asked that we do not lose sight of quality in Cornish education.*

*Jim Borshert stated that, while interested in value, we do not diminish the quality of education in Cornish. He further stated we must be invested in our current and future students who will be our future businessmen and entrepreneurs.*

*Unidentified Person, stressed that we make sure the product being delivered to our students is of the highest quality. The behind the scenes mix of who does what is only secondarily important.*

*Linda Fuerst voiced concerns about not having a Core Curriculum coordinator to help the teachers in their hard work in achieving Core Standards*

*Moving Forward:*

*Heidi Jaarsma outlined where we are in our charge, indicating that we addressed the advisability of withdrawal from the SAU and no we must address the estimated costs of the operation and construction.*

*She further state we could interview other small single SAU's, identify SAU's we might want to join with, and we should think about the two models presented today; a Superintendent with a Business background or a Superintendent with a Special Ed. Background.*

*Bill Palmer commented that, given we are a small school will it be possible to manage our own school district for the same money. He suggested that we quickly find out the cost of a part time superintendent so we see if we should invest any more time on an idea that may not be economically feasible.*

*Heidi Jaarsma suggested we approach other small single SAU's and see what their organizational structures are.*

*Plainfield, Grantham, Croydon and Lyme were identified a likely contacts.*

*The committee decided to divide the work of interviewing other communities and finding out about their Organizational Structure and Costs, with particular emphasis on Business, Special Education, Curriculum and Professional Development.*

SAU Planning Committee Meeting Minutes  
Approved 10/14/2014

*Bill Palmer, Heidi Jaarsma - Plainfield*

*Heidi Jaarsma – Lyme*

*Pete Lynch, Nicole Saginor – Grantham / Croydon*

*Middleton McGoodwin offered to send Heidi a schematic of all the State SAU's*

*Next Meeting October 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM*

*Meeting adjourned*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Peter Lynch, Secretary*