

**KEENE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

DATE: September 6, 2011

LOCATION: Conference Room 100, SAU #29 Building, 193 Maple Avenue, Keene, New Hampshire

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:06 p.m.

TIME ADJOURNED: 8:21 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Mr. Neil Donegan, Chair
- Mr. Chris Coates
- Mr. Carl Panza
- Mrs. Ann Szot

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Ms. Kristin Blais

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

- Mr. William Gurney, Co-Superintendent
- Mr. Wayne Woolridge, Co-Superintendent
- Mr. Tom Remillard, Director of Buildings, Facilities and Ancillary Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Mrs. Dru Fox, Stenographer
- Members of Public (2)
- Mr. John McMahon, KEA Representative
- Ms. Abby Spegman, Keene Sentinel Reporter

Mr. Neil Donegan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p .m.

1. Public Input - None

2. Approval of Minutes of June 7, 2011

Mr. Panza moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2011. Mrs. Szot seconded. Vote taken, motion unanimously passed.

5. Elementary Ad Hoc Committee Follow-up

Mr. Panza asked what the engineering study would cost. Mr. Gurney spoke to the issue and said the information he received from Marinace Architects is that it would not exceed \$50,000. Discussion ensued. Consensus of the committee is to table the issue at this time.

3. 2010-11 Year-End Financial Report

Report deferred to next month.

4. State Budget Update

Update deferred to next month.

6. Acceptance of Gift(s)

None.

7. Budget Transfer(s)

Mr. Gurney presented a budget transfer request from Mr. Chmiel to move money into an account for the purpose of funding a consultant for Data/RTI Training. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Coates moved to recommend that the Keene School Board of Education approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$2,030 from various Keene High School professional development accounts into an account designated to fund a consultant for Data/RTI Training. Mrs. Szot seconded. Vote taken, motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Gurney presented information on his memo dated September 6, 2011 requesting a budget transfer for Fuller School to transfer surplus tutor account money into a special education teacher account to fund a special education teacher to support the large fifth grade classes at Fuller. Discussion ensued surrounding class sizes, numbers of children with special needs, Symonds' School issues and the addition of a third class at that school, situation last year with three sections of fourth grade and issuing a one year contract to solve the current problem at Fuller. Discussion continued around tutor numbers and schedules at Fuller and where this \$70,000 surplus came from. Mr. Gurney clarified with information on Mr. Huggins development of a tutor schedule. Ms. Blais felt the timing was most problematic now especially given that school has already started. She felt it was oddly last minute. Discussion continued. Mr. Coates suggested that Mr. Huggins attend next week's board meeting along with Mrs. Woods and Mr. Lounsbury to further explain why this is the avenue supported and brought forth. Mr. Panza made further comparisons of Fuller School and Symonds School situations. Mr. Gurney supported Mr. Huggins plan, which has been in process since last winter and commended the innovative initiative he has taken not to add a classroom and a classroom teacher.

Mr. Panza moved to recommend that the Keene School Board of Education authorize a budget transfer in the amount of \$70,000 from the Fuller School tutor salaries account into the Fuller School professional salaries account for the purpose of hiring a one-year special education teacher to support the large 5th grade classes at Fuller. Mr. Coates seconded. Discussion continued on making a third 5th grade classroom at Fuller, estimates to construct another classroom, unique circumstances at Symonds and solving the larger issue - the structure of our elementary schools. Mr. Gurney added that this was a great opportunity for us to solve the problem without jumping into a third classroom and provided reasons why this approach is responsible. *Vote taken, motion unanimously passed.*

8. Other

Safe Routes to School

Issue tabled for discussion next month.

Mrs. Szot read aloud the policy of the Keene School Board of Education pertaining to negotiations and the hiring of a professional negotiator. Mrs. Szot emphasized that according to our very own policy we are suppose to be hiring a professional and we are not. She continued; the board has five negotiations this year. She presented information on the cost to hire one, which was provided to her by the NH School Board Association. Mr. Donegan spoke against the issue. Discussion ensued. Ms. Blais wondered what other school boards do and felt that Mrs. Szot presented a very strong point. Discussion continued regarding the number of hours each negotiation process takes, cost to negotiate, past experiences, selecting a qualified negotiator and the fact that board members were not qualified to be professional negotiators. Consensus of the committee is that this matter will be discussed in non-public session at next week's school board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dru Fox
Stenographer