

**KEENE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** January 9, 2010

**LOCATION:** Large Group Instruction Area, Keene High School, 43 Arch Street, Keene, NH

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 9:46 a.m.

**TIME ADJOURNED:** 11:46 a.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Ms. Kathleen O'Donnell, Chair
- Mrs. Carol Brown
- Mrs. Kristin Blais
- Mr. Carter Chamberlin
- Mr. Chris Coates
- Mr. Neil Donegan
- Mr. Carl Panza
- Mr. Donald Parker
- Mrs. Amy Speas

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

- Mr. William Gurney, Co-Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. John Harper, Business Administrator
- Mr. Paul Cooper, Director of Human Resources
- Ms. Catherine Reeves, Director of Special Education
- Mrs. Meredith Cargill, Director of Curriculum
- Mr. Tom Remillard, Director of Buildings and Grounds
- Mr. Alan Chmiel, Keene High School Principal
- Mr. James Logan, Director of Cheshire Career Center
- Ms. Patricia Yoerger, Jonathan Daniels School Principal
- Mrs. Dorothy Frazier, Middle School Principal
- Mr. William Harris, Benjamin Franklin School Principal
- Mr. Richard Cate, Symonds School Principal
- Mr. Paul Huggins, Fuller School Principal
- Mrs. Gwen Mitchell, Wheelock School Principal

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Attorney John Wrigley
- Ms. Sarah Palermo, Keene Sentinel Reporter
- Mrs. Chris Weeks, Public Information Coordinator
- Mrs. Dru Fox, Stenographer
- Members of the Public (12 plus or minus at given times)

**Ms. Kathleen O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 9:46 am.**

**1. Public Input**

None

**2. Action on the Proposed 2010-2011 Keene School District Budget**

*Mr. Neil Donegan made a motion to approve a 2010-2011 Keene School District Budget in the amount of \$60,384,266. Mrs. Carol Brown seconded.*

Mrs. Kristin Blais asked for, and Mr. John Harper responded with, clarification on accounting methods BAB versus CAB. He summarized the difference as being similar to long term versus short-term mortgages and provided examples of the affect on principal and interest payments.

Brief discussion ensued pertaining to a decrease in state building aid, CAB method, and cost center managers cooperation with revisions, commitment of the Finance Committee and the posting to hire a grant writer.

*Vote taken, motion unanimously passes.*

### **3. Review Proposed Warrant for Presentation at the January 12, 2010 Public Hearing**

Mr. John Harper passed out draft Warrant Articles and explained the budget presentation for the public hearing on January 12<sup>th</sup>, with the First Session on February 6<sup>th</sup> and Second Session on March 9<sup>th</sup>. He spoke of various steps in the process with the development of the draft warrant articles being a collaborative effort with Attorney Wrigley. He further explained:

-Article 1 is the main budget article seeking approval of the proposed 2010-2011 Keene School District Budget

-Article 2 pertains to the agreement reached with the KAPS group, which will be discussed in further detail in non-public session

-Article 3 is a standard article seeking a special meeting in the event Article 2 fails

-Article 4 pertains to the agreement reached with the tutor group coming forward later in non-public session

-Article 5 is the standard article similar to Article 3

-Article 6 seeks approval to establish an expendable trust fund

-Article 7 addresses the 1957 Capital Reserve Fund, which requires a vote to close out and return balance to the general fund.

-Article 8 is a standard article that appears on the warrant each year with no appropriation of dollars and the last time it was utilized was used to purchase the Royal Avenue property

Discussion ensued pertaining to the language in Article 6 regarding funds coming from expenditure savings and the dollar amount in Article 1 reflecting the approved amount coming from the Finance Committee.

*Mrs. Carol Brown made a motion to approve the 2010 Keene School District Warrant Articles 1 through 8 as amended and to bring forward at the January 12<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. Mr. Neil Donegan seconded. Vote taken, motion unanimously passed.*

### **3. Other**

Mr. Chris Coates presented a fee waiver request of the Keene Gladiator Youth Wrestling Program. Mr. Coates spoke in favor of the request and additionally proposed waiving the fee for all three practice days allowing the program to continue to the end of the year. Consensus of the board is to support this waiver.

*Mr. Chris Coates made a motion that the Keene School Board of Education approve the fee waiver request from the Keene Youth Gladiator Program for 3 practice days each week. Mr. Neil Donegan seconded. Brief discussion about preparing a written agreement ensued. Vote taken, motion unanimously passes.*

*Mr. Neil Donegan made a motion to move the meeting into Non-Public Session according to RSA: 91-A3. Mr. Chris Coates seconded. Role call vote taken, Mrs. Amy Speas-yes, Mr. Neil Donegan-yes, Mr. Donald Parker-yes, Mr. Chris Coates-yes, Mrs. Carol Brown-yes, Ms. Kathleen O'Donnell-yes, Mr. Carl Panza-yes, Mr. Carter Chamberlin-yes and Mrs. Kristin Blais-yes.*

*Meeting moved into Non-Public Session by a unanimous role call vote at 10:15 a.m.*

**KEENE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**(Continued)**

*Meeting resumed in public session at 11:19 a.m.*

**3. Other**

Mr. Neil Donegan brought up the issue of, and Mr. William Gurney explained about, the proposed 2010-2011 calendars.

*Mr. Neil Donegan made a motion to accept the March version of the 2010-2011 school district calendar. Mrs. Amy Speas seconded.*

Discussion ensued around resolving the issues brought forth previously from the towns and career center and the elimination of early release days.

*Mr. Neil Donegan amended his motion to “accept the March version of the 2010-2011 school calendar with the elimination of the early release days and the intent of those days to be full instructional days”. Mrs. Carol Brown seconded the amendment. Vote taken on amendment to the motion to accept the March version of the 2010-2011 School District Calendar. Motion fails by a vote of 3-6, with Mrs. Amy Speas, Mr. Neil Donegan and Mr. Carl Panza voting yes and all others voting no.*

*Vote taken on the motion to accept the March version of the 2010-2011 School District Calendar. Motion fails by a vote of 2-7, with Mr. Carl Panza and Mrs. Speas voting yes and all others voting no.*

*Mr. Neil Donegan made a motion to approve the draft of the proposed 2010-2011 School District Calendar, which reflects a February and March vacation and with the elimination of the early release days with the intent that they become full instructional days.*

Discussion ensued pertaining to the vote, voting with the majority, early release days not being beneficial to education, our contract with KEA and bringing all the towns together for one afternoon to work on curriculum, and workshop days. Further details discussed were: communication being the key, preparing for a change for next year, getting the message out to the towns now, failed committee study with no clear recommendations and taking the issue back for further study.

*Vote taken, motion to approve draft #4 of the proposed 2010-2011 School District Calendar, which reflects a February and March vacation and with the elimination of the early release days with the intent that they become full instructional day passes by a unanimous vote.*

**Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dru Fox  
Stenographer  
William B. Gurney  
Co-Superintendent of Schools  
**Approved by the**  
**Keene Board of Education**  
**Date: March 16, 2010**

