

1 Newfound Area School Board  
2 Newfound Regional High School Library Media Center  
3 January 9, 2012  
4 Minutes (APPROVED)  
5

6 **School Board Present:** Lloyd Belbin (Bristol), Mary Campbell (Hebron), Suzanne Cheney  
7 (Alexandria), Jon Johnson (Danbury), Louis Lieto (Groton), Vincent Paul Migliore (Bridgewater), Paul  
8 Rheinhardt (New Hampton)

9 **School Budget Committee Present:** John Voebel, Sharon Nelson, Harold "Skip" Reilly, Jon Johnson

10 **Staff Present:** Marie Ross (Superintendent), Dan Rossner (Business Administrator)

11 **Public Present:** Bernie Golden (Danbury), Archie Osher (Bristol), Neal Martin (Bristol), Autumn  
12 Dole(Bristol), Ann Johnson (Danbury) NOTE: There were more people at t his meeting but the  
13 attendance sheet seems to have walked off.  
14

15 ***Call to Order at 6 pm***

16  
17 ***Non-public session to begin promptly at 6 pm***

- 18     <sup>^</sup> Personnel per RSA 91-A:3 IIa Employee  
19

20 ***Return to public session at 6:30 pm***

- 21     <sup>^</sup> *Paul Rheinhardt motioned, seconded by Louis Lieto, approved 7-0-0-0*  
22     <sup>^</sup> Salute the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance  
23     <sup>^</sup> Notice of Posting  
24

25 ***Recognition***

- 26     <sup>^</sup> Mary Campbell recognized Paul Rheinhardt for serving on both the School Board and Budget  
27     Committee.  
28

29 ***School Board Meeting Minutes***

- 30     <sup>^</sup> December 12, 2011  
31         o *Louis Lieto motioned to accept as amended, Jon Johnson seconded, approved 7-0-0-0.*  
32

33 ***Announcements, Correspondence and Reports***

- 34     <sup>^</sup> Student Council Reports  
35         o Josh Adjutant went over the student council report for the high school, advisories and  
36         the "Pay it Forward" program. Dr. Ross talked about the work they did at the NHCS.  
37         o Mary Campbell went over the reports from the different schools in the Board packet.  
38         She noted the public notices that weren't put on the table tonight regarding the budget  
39         meeting and warrant articles.  
40         o Sharon Nelson asked what NHIAA was in Josh's report and Mary Campbell said it  
41         stands for New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association.  
42         o Mary Campbell noted a letter from a Bridgewater resident that was sent via email to the  
43         Board and Budget Committee as well as an anonymous letter that was sent and it was  
44         forwarded to everyone on the Board and committee. Mary Campbell went over the  
45         upcoming events and the various reports and asked for questions and comments. She  
46         also went over the report Dan Rossner provided from USPS regarding the cost for a  
47         mailing to all residents with information on the upcoming deliberative session and vote.

- 48           ○ Dr. Ross talked about how they normally disseminate information and said information  
49           from the Board could be incorporated into a newsletter. Lloyd Belbin said he has drafted  
50           a letter. Sue Cheney asked if the price was for one sheet of paper and Dan Rossner  
51           explained the pricing further.  
52

53 ***Strategic Plan Reports***  
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- 55           • Core (Assessment, Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development)  
56           • Infrastructure (Facilities, Finance, Policy, Technology)  
57           • School Budget Committee December 6th minutes  
58           • School Budget Committee December 13th minutes  
59           • School Budget Committee December 20th minutes  
60           ○ Paul Rheinhardt commented that at this point the Budget Committee has decided to  
61           accept the number the School Board proposed.  
62           ○ Mary Campbell informed the audience about the budget hearing on Wednesday 1/11 at  
63           6:30 and encouraged everyone to come to it. She talked about presenting warrant articles  
64           and petitions.  
65           ○ Sue Cheney asked about the NHCS winter concert and Dr. Ross said it has been  
66           rescheduled to February 1<sup>st</sup> so there won't be a conflict.  
67           • Communications (Parents, Personnel, Public, Pupils)  
68

69 ***Public Comments on Agenda Items Only***

- 70           • Not to exceed five minutes per individual [School Board Policy BDDH]  
71           ○ Archie Osher talked about the normal process for the budget hearing and wants to be  
72           sure that it is still in place. Mary Campbell confirmed there will be the public hearing  
73           and that the School Board and Budget Committee will meet after the hearing to talk  
74           further.  
75           ○ Neal Martin said he noticed that there was correspondence that was received labeled  
76           anonymous. Mary Campbell confirmed that one was anonymous the other did have a  
77           name. Mr. Martin said the anonymous one should not be kept or made public. He then  
78           asked when is the time limit to present correspondence so that it can be read or put on  
79           the agenda. Mary Campbell said it is a minimum of 10 days. He asked on the deficit  
80           budget, what is the last day that the default bud will be set? Mary Campbell said the  
81           default budget is due no later than 1/31. Mr. Martin asked when is the last meeting to  
82           solidify? Mary Campbell said hopefully tonight.  
83           ○ Mr. Martin spoke further regarding interpretation of the default budget. He said they  
84           should be aware of legislative history and spoke briefly about it.  
85

86 ***Discussion Items***

- 87           a) Policy for Second Reading  
88           ○ GCPA Reduction in Professional Staff Work Force  
89           ▪ Mary Campbell went over the item and asked for comments or questions. There  
90           were none.  
91           b) Citizen Request “to address the Board on several aspects of the budget process” [School Board  
92           Policies BDDC and BDDH]  
93           ○ Archie Osher thanked the Board for their work. He said that in the discuss that he hopes

- 94 to have, he will “shed a lot of light but not looking to generate any heat.” He explained  
95 who he is and his history of employment in education as both a teacher and  
96 administrator. He also explained his political experience. He discussed the history of the  
97 budgeting process and different formats that can be used.
- 98 ○ Mr. Osher handed out a packet to the School Board (see attached) and went over it. Page  
99 one goes over the functions by expenditures, page 2 is “Methodology to create FY12  
100 Default Budget”, he pulled out every single salary in the budget and listed it on page 3.  
101 On page 4 he outlined the health insurance in the same way. Pages 5 and 6 detail the  
102 tech department.
  - 103 ○ An audience member asked what the purpose of his presentation was. Archie said it was  
104 to help new Board members understand the budgeting process.
  - 105 ○ Mr. Osher went over the salary spreadsheet. He also went over the health insurance cost  
106 information spreadsheet. He further talked about increases and decreases as proposed  
107 by the School Board’s budget.
  - 108 ○ He talked about building trust within the community and noted that there are three  
109 people in IT and talked about their salary and the web page that says “ITS is assisted by  
110 six Building Level Technicians and six Building Level Website Developers throughout  
111 the district.” And said the union would think there were an additional 12 people on  
112 the IT staff. Dr. Ross pointed out that the information on page 6 for ICT does not relate  
113 to the ITS staff. She further explained that the 12 people noted on the tech page are  
114 teachers within the district that receive a small stipend to be the go-to tech person in  
115 their building.
  - 116 ○ Archie said if a person is working in technology they shouldn’t be in the 1100 series.  
117 Dan Rossner said the 3 IT positions are very clearly defined in the budget. The 12  
118 positions are a total of \$12k for the stipends and the cost of those stipends are included  
119 in the 2225 function. Archie said as a reasonably experienced person in the budget  
120 process he had difficulty finding the information that any citizen should be able to find.  
121 Dan Rossner further explained where the \$12k difference could be found and if each  
122 stipend had to be spelled out, it would make for a much more extensive report. Archie  
123 said that is not the issue, he read the job goal of an ICT specialist. He compared the ICT  
124 positions at the middle/high school compared to the elementary schools and the need for  
125 consistency.
  - 126 ○ Mr. Osher proposed that the Board review all job descriptions, any new ones coming up  
127 and label each position by function number and the fund that it is going to be under. He  
128 said this will help to eliminate confusion.
  - 129 ○ Mr. Osher went on to talk about creating the default budget. He talked about removing  
130 salary and benefits from positions that have been removed from the proposed budget  
131 and getting to the correct number. He said he made this presentation to shed light.
  - 132 ○ Dr. Ross addressed the technology positions on page 6 of his report and clarified the job  
133 descriptions. She explained where the elementary school librarians have been budgeted  
134 when they redefined the job descriptions as well as the music, art, phys ed and computer  
135 teachers. All are budgeted in the 1100 series as teaching positions. She also explained the  
136 positions at the middle and high school and that they are budgeted in the 2222 series and  
137 the rationale behind it. She also explained other positions and why they are where they  
138 are.
  - 139 ○ Louis Lieto said the recommendation to include the budgetary assignments in the job  
140 descriptions would be helpful. Archie said that was the point of his presentation.

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- c) Default Budget Development for 2012-2013 (due no later than January 30, 2012)
- Vincent Paul Migliore noted that when the School Board last met they decided by motion to direct the business administrator to present a budget two ways and asked if that was Archie’s motivator for having the sheet in the packet about the default budget. Mr. Osher confirmed that was his reasoning and also contract issues. He said the Board said in FY13 they are cutting back the benefits and he doesn’t think it’s right to put them into the default budget.
  - Louis Lieto said as he understands, those people don’t have a contract, so maybe they shouldn’t be in the budget, that is one interpretation. Archie said he doesn’t think there are any employees in the district who don’t sign a contract.
  - Vincent Paul Migliore said that it is a salary issue. Louis Lieto asked if there are any employees without a contract. Dan Rossner said there are none this year without one, there are none next year with one, it’s not a collective bargaining agreement but it is a contract. Dan Rossner said temp employees don’t have a contract.
  - Dan Rossner addressed Vincent Paul Migliore question and explained what the proposed budget was built on. Regarding benefits not being removed when a position was eliminated, he said it’s impossible to reduce positions without reducing benefits as well. He went over the proposed budget figures, including health benefits and employee numbers. Vincent Paul Migliore asked if that made the difference in the bottom line and Dan Rossner explained the default vs. the proposed budget further.
  - Paul Rheinhardt asked when “we established a budget we eliminated those benefits, how can they be put back in?” Dr. Ross explained the information was requested and that is why Dan Rossner created the two budgets.
  - Louis Lieto asked “independent of the health care related items, are there any other differences that need clarification?” Dan Rossner said he was comfortable with the spreadsheets and figures being accurate.
  - Mary Campbell said she wasn’t sure she heard the increase in the transportation contract that was all ready negotiated and Dan Rossner said it is in there but he didn’t state it, but there is a 2.5% increase. They further discussed the cost of transportation.
  - Dr. Ross said if the Board is recognizing there is an increase in gas and transportation costs, shouldn’t that be reflected in other areas of the budget. Dan Rossner said he agrees and discussed heating oil expenses that fall into a gray area.
  - Mary Campbell talked about other lines like heating and snow removal that fluctuate.
  - Louis Lieto said in the past there have been discussions about heating and gas costs and asked what has been discussed at the budget meetings. Dan Rossner and Mary Campbell noted the Budget Committee have not discussed that issue at the most recent meetings.
  - Dr. Ross asked if the Board accepted the default version 1a, where do the differences lie, why the default is slightly higher than the proposed. Dan Rossner went over the differences.
  - Vincent Paul Migliore asked if he polled the Board about the changes they made, with regard to the change to the support staff premiums, did they agree they would provide for a single plan, a portion of a spousal plan and family plan. Dr. Ross explained, full single plan with a co-pay and up to half of a two person plan and then the balance between that number and the cost of a family plan equates to 44% of a family plan. She further talked about co-pays, deductibles and changes that have been made.
  - Louis Lieto went back to fuel costs. He asked if there was a reasonable way to get a

- 188 more realistic estimate of the amount of fuel and costs associated. With it Dan Rossner  
189 explained the process he uses to estimate the costs and usage for the budget. He talked  
190 about the proposed costs for next year for fuel. Louis Lieto said he wants to suggest they  
191 put in for those line items the most reasonable estimate and not just rely on this year's  
192 numbers. Dan Rossner gave a series of numbers per month for diesel fuel for the buses.  
193 Louis Lieto suggested those numbers need to be replaced. Dan Rossner said what he  
194 understands is that Louis Lieto is saying the energy costs in the proposed budget mirror  
195 the default rather than being copied over from the previous year.
- 196 ○ Dan Rossner further went over the fuel costs in the default and proposed budgets, Dr.  
197 Ross noted that it's \$30k higher. The Board further discussed.
  - 198 ○ Paul Rheinhardt said he doesn't understand that the higher number is in the proposed but  
199 the default is higher. Dan Rossner said you can't look at one number to determine the  
200 difference between the two budgets
  - 201 ○ Dr. Ross said they need to go line by line to find the discrepancy. Dan Rossner said he  
202 just needs to review the salary charts.
  - 203 ○ Sue Cheney asked about a position that wasn't appropriated last year but is in the  
204 proposed budget. Dr. Ross explained the position and how it was budgeted. Dan Rossner  
205 said earlier this fall they accepted additional grant revenue and none of those additional  
206 appropriations are in the default budget because they can't be counted on. Dr. Ross  
207 further talked about federal funding and not counting money they may not have.
- 208 d) Warrant articles (due no later than January 10, 2012)
- 209 ○ Mary Campbell and Dr. Ross went over the information that was given to the Board.  
210 Dr. Ross further discussed the meetings in the various towns.
  - 211 ○ Vincent Paul Migliore asked, for the purposes of clarification, to read the articles for the  
212 public.
  - 213 ○ Mary Campbell said she was just going over the information in the packet and the need  
214 for meetings in each town. She also noted tomorrow is the deadline for petitioned  
215 articles.
  - 216 ○ Dr. Ross said they hoped that each Board member could attend the meetings in their  
217 towns. Dr. Ross went over the laws regarding the articles and read for the audience  
218 articles 3, 4 and 5.
  - 219 ○ Louis Lieto said that several towns are not mentioned in article 5 and is curious if  
220 anyone can shed light on the articles. Mary Campbell said they are welcome to present  
221 these articles at the hearing and at the first deliberative session. She noted there are three  
222 petitioned articles that the Board has questions for.
  - 223 ○ Vincent Paul Migliore asked if the hearing was only for the tax cap. Dr. Ross said the  
224 others could be discussed under "other business" and there is a legal posting  
225 requirement and she is going to check with the attorney.
  - 226 ○ Mary Campbell talked about Articles 1 and 2 and asked if the Board had any other  
227 issues to address.
- 228 e) Other Business
- 229 ○ Mary Campbell asked Dan Rossner about the graph he included in the packet. Dan  
230 Rossner explained that it is good faith evidence that the default would decrease the  
231 amount needed to be raised locally. He further explained the information on the graph  
232 that was given to the budget committee and Mary Campbell noted other information that  
233 was also included.
  - 234 ○ Dr. Ross pointed out the news clippings in the Board packet.

- 235           ○ Lloyd Belbin motioned to vote on the mailing regarding the first deliberative session.  
236           Mary Campbell said he would have to wait to make a motion but could discuss now.
- 237           ○ Lloyd Belbin said at the meeting there might be a lot of people and he would like the  
238           check list at the door so the registered voters can get in first and then the non-registered.  
239           Mary Campbell confirmed he was talking about the first session. Vincent Paul Migliore  
240           asked about the history of handling larger meetings. Dr. Ross said 276 was the largest  
241           meeting and the auditorium holds 4??. He asked about the kindergarten meeting with  
242           almost 600 people, Mary Campbell said that was held in the gym. The Board further  
243           discussed the capacity of the auditorium and gym and handling a larger crowd. Dr. Ross  
244           talked about doing a simulcast to other rooms in the high school and other logistical  
245           issues that should be looked at. Dr. Ross said they could meet with Ned to see what can  
246           be done. The Board further discussed logistics, rescheduling etc.
- 247           ○ Lloyd Belbin asked about the policy of guest passes for senior citizens for all activities  
248           in the district. He said he went to the SAU office and Dan Rossner told him that was  
249           handled by the individual locations and not the SAU office. Lloyd Belbin said it needs  
250           to be stipulated what kinds of events and where to pick up a pass. Dan Rossner said he  
251           thinks Lloyd Belbin is looking for the SAU to be more proactive in getting senior passes  
252           out to the public. Dr. Ross said it is a policy on the books and will be taken care of.
- 253           ○ Lloyd Belbin is still looking for the discipline reports. Dr. Ross apologized for not  
254           putting them into the packet but she has all the information.
- 255           ○ Vincent Paul Migliore talked about Lloyd Belbin's suggestion and registered voters and  
256           using the check list. He wasn't sure how to handle it but it could be addressed by an  
257           official request of the SAU to remind the town clerks that there is a law that the official  
258           checklist need to be verified, that the names of the people coming to vote need to be  
259           retained for a period of time. He found in his research a conflicting time to hold onto  
260           that information but the clerks are required to retain them by law and he knows they  
261           haven't been because he was told he could look at the data and then it wasn't available,  
262           he was told they were destroyed. He would like to go on record, that the clerks be  
263           informed those documents need to be retained under the Right To Know for a minimum  
264           of 5 years by law. Dr. Ross said they send out letters to the clerks and will include that  
265           information as a reminder to them.
- 266           ○ Louis Lieto said it got him thinking that NH is one where you can register on the day  
267           you vote, but doesn't know if you can do that for a school vote. Sue Cheney said you  
268           can register that day but not vote. The Board further discussed the laws behind this and  
269           the checklist.
- 270           ○ Vincent Paul Migliore said in this case they could use that document for permission to  
271           enter in a particular order. Paul Rheinhardt said "do you know how much time it would  
272           take to screen everyone" Sue Cheney said at Town Meeting there are seven sets of  
273           supervisors to check, there aren't that many non-voters who attend. Dr. Ross said that  
274           Ned asks non-voters to identify themselves at the beginning of votes and there haven't  
275           historically been that many.
- 276           ○ Dr. Ross asked about the last Board meeting where Louis Lieto read a statement about  
277           the District Data Task Force information and the next day she received copies of the  
278           slides presented by Vincent Paul Migliore. She asked the Board to clarify that it was the  
279           intention of the Board to post both slide shows and post Louis Lieto opinion as well?
- 280           ○ Louis Lieto said he corrected in the 12/20 minutes but he didn't correct the slide show  
281           and will have to do that. But, he doesn't believe his comments need to be added to the

- 282 slide show.
- 283 ○ Vincent Paul Migliore suggested that what was presented at the 12/7 session falls under
- 284 Right To Know and should be on the website. He wants to know if it can be put back up
- 285 in it's excel format rather than PDF which is not downloadable. Dan Rossner said to
- 286 send him the file he wants up there to upload. Vincent Paul Migliore asked if anyone
- 287 disagrees that what was presented should be up on the website. Louis Lieto said there is
- 288 no disagreement as long as Vincent Paul Migliore's comments are labeled as his.
- 289

290 **Public Comments on Agenda Items Only**

- 291 • Not to exceed five minutes per individual [School Board Policy BDDH]
- 292 ○ Harold "Skip" Reilly said on the warrant articles he didn't see anything about the School
- 293 Resource Officer. Dr. Ross said the Board decided not to present it at this time.
- 294 ○ Bernie Golden asked Jon Johnson to confirm the number of warrant articles. Jon
- 295 Johnson confirmed 2 not 3. Dr. Ross asked if he anticipates another warrant article and
- 296 Bernie said yes. Mary Campbell talked about people presenting and talking about their
- 297 petitioned article.
- 298 ○ Autumn Dole asked about day care at the meeting. Dr. Ross said there would be but
- 299 asked for RSVPs to make sure they have enough coverage.
- 300 ○ Mr. Osher thanked the Board again for the incredible strides they made to the budget.
- 301

302 **Action Items**

- 303 a) Policy for Second Reading
- 304 ○ GCPA Reduction in Professional Staff Work Force
- 305 ■ *Louis Lieto motioned, Lloyd Belbin seconded to approved as presented, 7-0-0-0*
- 306 b) Default Budget Development for 2012-2013 (due no later than January 30, 2012)
- 307 ○ *Lloyd Belbin motioned that the Board accept the default budget as proposed under FY13*
- 308 *b1a of \$21,662,205.00, Paul Rheinhardt seconded.*
- 309 ○ *Louis Lieto offered an amendment to the motion to authorize Dan Rossner to replace the*
- 310 *fuel charges to reflect the best estimate of fuel costs for next year. Seconded by Sue*
- 311 *Cheney.*
- 312 ○ Dan Rossner went over the figures. The Board further discussed the difference between
- 313 the default and proposed budget figures. Dan Rossner gave a new total for all funds of
- 314 \$21,700,092.00.
- 315 ○ Louis Lieto said he would argue that the different areas that have contributed to the
- 316 \$200k increase are legitimate and not "game playing" as Mr. Osher referred to.
- 317 ○ *Amendment passes 5-2(Bristol, New Hampton)-0-0*
- 318 ○ *Motion as amended passed 5-2(New Hampton, Bridgewater)-0-0*
- 319 c) Warrant articles (due no later than January 10, 2012)
- 320 ○ Mary Campbell announced the Board has not added any, there are 3 others with the
- 321 possibility of 2 more. She encouraged the petitioners to be at the hearings to give
- 322 remarks.
- 323 d) Other Business
- 324 ○ Mary Campbell noted the hearings and deliberative sessions would be video taped. She
- 325 pointed out the student numbers in the Board packet.
- 326 ○ Lloyd Belbin motioned that all the residences, not businesses, in the District receive
- 327 mailed notifications of the meetings. Dan Rossner clarified that they would be mailing
- 328 to the residential addresses noted in the information provided by the USPS.

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- Lloyd Belbin handed out a draft of his letter for the mailing. Dr. Ross looked over the letter and said that if a letter represents a certain viewpoint it could not be sent using district money.
  - Sue Cheney said there are some things that could be added. Dr. Ross asked if they would like her to prepare a draft with the correct amounts, and the warrant article information to present to the Board at the hearing on Wednesday. Paul Rheinhardt said the letter should explain the proceedings. Vincent Paul Migliore asked how they can review as a group versus waiting until the planning and dialogue meeting. The Board and Dr. Ross further discussed how to go about drafting, approving and sending the letter. Dr. Ross said there can be a lot more information added for the same cost.
  - Louis Lieto said an important fly in the ointment is the additional warrant articles. He would offer a motion to direct the Superintendent to prepare a public release with all the warrant articles, the information that Lloyd Belbin has presented and give it to the Board to review and edit to go to all residential addresses.
  - Vincent Paul Migliore asked what do you do in the case of a disagreement, legally. Dr. Ross said it is her job to inform the public what is going on. Paul Rheinhardt said she could email them in advance of the meeting. Dan Rossner said they could post that the School Board would meet before the hearing to discuss and vote, and that you only need to post 24 hours in advance.
  - Bernie Golden suggested recessing the meeting rather than adjourning to continue the discussion before the budget hearing.
  - *Mary Campbell called Lloyd Belbin's motion. Approved 7-0-0-0.*
  - Mary Campbell handed out a memo from Max Stamp about school district simplification (see attached). She asked the Board if they would like a p&d meeting for January 23rd to address this memo. Vincent Paul Migliore said he would like to remind the Board they got a very detailed email from Ruby Hill of Danbury that is along the same lines. The additional point is that, although the correspondence was anonymous, it was similar in nature. There are two or more petition warrant articles that talk about looking at changing things. There seems to be a lot of interest in dealing with that topic. He would like to prioritize them since he had suggested a planning and dialogue relating to these letters. Mary Campbell said it was not her intention to have one in Jan. Dr. Ross asked if the consolidation conversation restructuring the district could wait until the article passes at the deliberative session. Vincent Paul Migliore said if it doesn't pass they should have a planning and dialogue session to discuss them further.
  - Mary Campbell said she encourages the people who signed the petitions to come, talk and start the dialogue. She would prefer to wait to hear information from the petitioners before having a planning and dialogue since committees would be set up if the articles passed.
  - Dr. Ross further talked about different people at different meetings and publicizing more. Mary Campbell asked if they wanted a planning and dialogue or wait until after the elections in March. Vincent Paul Migliore said it was a good idea to wait.
  - Mary Campbell asked the Board to check their calendars and plan to attend the meetings in their own towns.

372

373 e) Manifests

- 374 ○ Sue Cheney noted there are no manifests.
- 375



376 **Adjournment**

- 377 • *Louis Lieto moved to recess until the end of the budget hearing on January 11<sup>th</sup>, Paul Rheinhardt*  
378 *seconded. Approved 7-0-0-0.*

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380 URLs Accessed:

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383  
384 Respectfully submitted,

385  
386 Amy Lyn Kench  
387 School Board Clerk

- 388  
389  
390 January 11th Budget Hearing, 6:30pm, NRHS  
391 January 12th Snow Date – Budget Hearing, 6:30pm, NRHS  
392 January 17th Policy Committee meeting, 5:30 pm, SAU Office  
393 January 23rd Planning and Dialogue meeting, NRHS, 6:30pm  
394 February 1st Wellness Council Meeting, BES LMC, 3:15pm  
395 February 4th First Deliberative Session, NRHS, 10:00am  
396 School Events  
397 January 10th Bridgewater-Hebron Village School Winter Concert, 6:30 pm, BHVS  
398 January 16th Civil Rights Day, No School  
399 January 17th Snow Date, Bridgewater-Hebron Village School Winter Concert, 6:30 pm, BHVS  
400 January 18th Newfound Memorial Middle School Allied Arts Night and Winter Concert, 5:30 pm  
401 January 19th Snow Date, Newfound Memorial Middle School Allied Arts Night and Winter Concert,  
402 5:30 pm  
403 January 25th Early Release Day, All Schools  
404 January 25th Prize Speaking, Danbury Elementary School, 7:00pm  
405 January 27th 30th Annual One Act Competition, NRHS, 7:00pm  
406 January 28th Snow Date, 30th Annual One Act Competition, NRHS, 7:00pm  
407 February 1st Winter Concert - New Hampton Community, NRHS, 6:30pm  
408 February 2nd Snow Date, Winter Concert - New Hampton Community, NRHS, 6:30pm

TO: Marie Ross  
Mary Campbell  
Neal Martin  
Fran Wendelboe

*please  
post  
as  
part  
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minutes  
for 1/9/11*

FROM: Max Stamp

SUBJ: School District Simplification

DATE: December 28, 2011

I recently attended one of the school board "Task Force" meetings. The Task Force presented detailed cost analysis of 16 other NH school districts considered to be of comparable size and complexity. The bottom line was that several other districts are able to operate at costs \$3-4 million less than SAU 4. This was a reminder to me that we were at this same position two plus years ago. Todd Westfall had analyzed 4-5 comparable districts around the state, coming up with essentially the same \$3-4 million cost dilemma. Lots of issues were discussed at that time, and several committees were formed to begin to deal with cost performance. Enrollment was declining and costs were rising – significant changes had to be contemplated. I was assigned to the committee charged with developing a comprehensive long range plan (CLRP) with goals identified for where we wanted to be in 5 years. My interest was in simplifying the operation of the district and its infrastructure. All cost reduction opportunities were to be on the table. Word soon came down to CLRP that the school board had voted unanimously to remove school consolidation from further consideration. Those restrictions spelled the end of CLRP.

So here we are two plus years later, back at the same place – a \$3-4 million deficit gap vs. other districts of comparable size. The Task Force has expanded the scope of the study, and drilled down more into details of cost differences, but it appears the board is still frozen with regards to serious consideration of consolidation opportunities. My concern now is that the board's reluctance to deal with the controversial consolidation issue will result in budget decisions that will do real damage to performance improvement in the district.

I decided to look back at a spread sheet Dan Rossner had put together for the 2010 budget. The spread sheet provided a breakdown of operating costs for each of the 6 district schools. I have pulled together a "conversation starter" on the subject of consolidation. **DON'T GET HUNG UP ON THE AGE OF THE NUMBERS.** This is not designed for two decimal point accuracy. The costs of operating the district today are still in the Rossner spread sheet range (\$22-24 M). Yes, some things have changed, but I think the analysis would fit comfortably into the Law of Offsetting Errors.

I am strongly suggesting that the school board open up the consolidation/simplification issue – no restrictions. Let's see if we can agree that pursuit of this option will in fact avert budget damage to some tools essential to longer term education performance.

Please see the attached "first cut" at consolidation opportunities.

CONSOLIDATION OPPORTUNITY SAU 4

(Numbers from spread sheet analysis D. Rossner did of individual school operating cost 2010 B)

<u>School</u>	<u>Students</u>		<u>Total Expenditure (Before Revenue)</u>	<u>Cost/Student</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>% District</u>		
HS	473	33.3%	\$7,537.9 M	\$15.9 (000's)
Mid School	329	23.2	5,090.8	15.5
BE	247	17.4	3,518.7	14.2
Dan	70	4.9	1,554.3	22.2
B/H	169	11.9	2,352.8	13.9
NH	<u>132</u>	<u>9.3</u>	<u>2,035.2</u>	<u>15.4</u>
TOTAL	1,420	100.0	\$22,089.7 M	15.6

CONSOLIDATION COST REDUCTION OPPORTUNITY – EXAMPLE DANBURY  
ASSUMPTIONS

- School is sold/transferred
- Allocated district admin costs reallocated to remaining schools
- Equivalent of 3+ teachers added to receiving schools
- Revenue (all sources) will follow student
- Rossner spread sheet reflects, for the most part, actual cost of operating/maintaining individual schools

Cost to Operate Danbury	\$ 1,554.3 M
- District Admin cost to be reallocated (2300 Series)	(39.8)
- Teachers/Ass'ts added to receiving school(s)	(250.0)
- Added (?) transportation expense – 1/3 of current cost	(18.0)
- Exit contingency	<u>(100.0)</u>
SAVINGS POTENTIAL	\$ 1,146.5 M