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NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
APPROVED AS AMENDED Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2012
At the SAU Office 6:30 PM

School Board Present: Lloyd Belbin (Bristol), Louis Lieto (Groton), Vincent Paul Migliore (Bridgewater), Paul Rheinhardt (New Hampton)

Public Present: Mary MacCaffrie (Bristol), Janet Cote (Bristol), Debra Blouin (Alexandria), Becca Boudreau (Bristol), Betsy Schneider (Bristol), Paul Manganiello (Bristol), Erik Nelson (Bristol), Dan Rossner Arseneau (Bristol), Eric Rottenecker (Bristol), Ian Schuefer (Bristol), Charlie Parillo (Bristol), M. Scott (Bristol)

Call to Order at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Notice of posting

To discuss and settle the wording of the District Mailing

- Louis Lieto informed the Board that he got input in writing from Sue Cheney, Jon Johnson and Mary Campbell.
- Vincent Paul Migliore said he was concerned with the wording of the first sentence of the second paragraph.
- Paul Rheinhardt said he wants the deliberative session explained.
- Vincent Paul Migliore said for the same cost they could include another page. Louis Lieto said they don't need to worry about the word count. Lloyd Belbin said you'll lose people if the mailer is too big.
- Vincent Paul Migliore said it's not just a post card to let them know about the meeting. It needs to be bigger to fit the information and not guess if people will read it or not.
- Lloyd Belbin went over how it needs to be mailed.
- Louis Lieto said they are debating if the objective is to inform, and what the limits are. They can't inform so much that voters are fluent in the details; they have to draw some lines that are "good enough". Paul Rheinhardt said they could say, reduced the budget from this number to this number, but he thinks it would be inflammatory as it stands now. Vincent Paul Migliore said maybe put in what it was and what it is proposed to be.
- Vincent Paul Migliore said a solution could be to go with the total numbers and not the reduction numbers. Louis Lieto said there are two bottom lines, the total budget and the bottom line raised by local taxation. Both are relevant pieces of information to people voting on the budget.
- Lloyd Belbin talked about the figures he had on the proposed outline he put together for the mailing. Louis Lieto said the number dollars the School District was allowed to spend is the starting point, and then show the other figures. Louis Lieto asked if it's relevant to put in the numbers from last year and this year. Vincent Paul Migliore said that Dr. Ross said it would be confusing to do that. The warrant being present is \$21.6 million which is a reduction of X amount and what are included in the cuts.
- Paul Rheinhardt said it's important to explain the process.
- Vincent Paul Migliore said to include the "Attention all voters and taxpayers" to the opening statements in the insert. He wondered if there is an RSA that governs whether they can say anything about the articles. Louis Lieto said he had asked Mary Campbell and Dr. Ross if they were aware if they could weigh in on a warrant article, whether the School Board recommends or doesn't. It is legal, but if they wish to do it, then it should be by deliberation of the whole Board,

- 49 not this small group. No one raised the issue of saying anything non-judgmental. Everything he is
50 reading are informational only, not judgmental. He noted Dr. Ross said it should also be bounced
51 off the attorney.
- 52 • Paul Rheinhardt noted they have the warrant articles in the newsletter. Vincent Paul Migliore said
53 the handout could say “notice to all taxpayers” with statements of fact about each article without
54 noting if the School Board supports or not.
 - 55 • Lloyd Belbin said under law they can’t change the wording and they shouldn’t get involved.
 - 56 • Louis Lieto said if they can offer simple information he is not opposed to it. But, whatever they
57 decide, it will be reviewed by the attorney. Lloyd Belbin said they need to have the information
58 about the individual town meetings and include the time, date and location. Vincent Paul Migliore
59 said it was a goal of the Board to communicate more readily with the public and he doesn’t
60 believe they’ve done a good job of that. He feels they did less than an adequate job of publicizing
61 the District Data Task Force meetings and they need to do a better job of getting the word out.
62 They also need to make it clear that it is a School Board work product and not of the
63 Superintendent.
 - 64 • Louis Lieto asked the Board to finish going over the first page of the newsletter and the Board
65 went over and made edits. Louis Lieto noted that Jon Johnson had comments on the page and
66 read them to the group.
 - 67 • Vincent Paul Migliore made a suggestion for the 2nd paragraph which referred to the reduction
68 amounts and what was included. The Board discussed the “what’s your opinion?” line. Further
69 discussion, Louis Lieto said the numbers are very bottom line oriented.
 - 70 • Vincent Paul Migliore mentioned a summary of bills before the legislature and the ability of the
71 School Board to make a recommendation on a warrant article and he wondered if they could
72 factually state the implications of the articles. If that is a problem the whole sheet will be pulled
73 out. He further talked about the information that needs to be left in.
 - 74 • The Board discussed the third paragraph. Vincent Paul Migliore asked if anyone knew if the
75 budget was out on the website yet. He said they need to get it out there; Louis Lieto will follow
76 up on that tomorrow. The Board further discussed this paragraph.
 - 77 • The Board discussed the wording for the insert. Louis Lieto said it is important for all voters to
78 attend, useless for unregistered taxpayers to attend. Louis Lieto said it needs to be stated again
79 that you can’t register to vote at the session. He also asked about breaking up the paragraph and
80 Paul Rheinhardt said it was fine as long as he didn’t change the content.
 - 81 • The Board moved to the last page. Vincent Paul Migliore’s gave input and suggestions.
 - 82 • The Board went over the text of the warrant articles and the comments made by Vincent Paul
83 Migliore and Mary Campbell. They also discussed formatting issues.
 - 84 • Article 1-boilerplate-no changes. Article 2-no changes. Lloyd Belbin asked if they would include
85 the publicized date for each hearing in the communities. Articles 3 and 6 require hearings. Louis
86 Lieto said they need to make sure the dates are acceptable to the towns.
 - 87 • Article 3-Vincent Paul Migliore talked about the 3/5 rule.
 - 88 • Louis Lieto read comments submitted by Mary Campbell. The Board discussed why the School
89 Board is charged with presenting petitioned warrant articles.
 - 90 • Article 4-Vincent Paul Migliore read comments he wants added. Louis Lieto read comments from
91 Mary Campbell regarding use of the word deadline.
 - 92 • Louis Lieto said these articles are “guidance articles” and explained that means you can’t order a
93 governing body to do something. Vincent Paul Migliore wondered what the RSA was and there
94 was further discussion about mandating a governing body to do something. Louis Lieto
95 suggested getting the documentation about it from legal. The Board further discussed what
96 guidance articles mean and the governing body of voters.

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- Louis Lieto said he will have to sit down tomorrow morning with Dr. Ross then send the mailing to the attorney. Lloyd Belbin stressed the newsletter needs to be in the mail by Friday.
 - Vincent Paul Migliore talked about what he would like add to explain Article 5. Lloyd Belbin said this would involve changing the charter of the SAU. Louis Lieto said the petition article doesn't ask for the School Board to do, but to look into doing it. He isn't happy about Vincent Paul Migliore's comments because he can think of more and more things that should be added. Vincent Paul Migliore agreed to strike the excess information.
 - Vincent Paul Migliore went over his comments for Article 6. Louis Lieto read comments from Mary Campbell. The Board agreed to use Mary Campbell comments rather than Vincent Paul Migliore's. Louis Lieto commented that if you go to that format, you might or might not have a budget committee.
 - Vincent Paul Migliore went over his comments for Article 7.
 - Vincent Paul Migliore talked about subject matter that was discussed at the School Board Association Delegation Assembly he attended on Saturday. He noted there were references to legislation pending this year and a session in detail that raised some concerns. He talked about the "Labor Relations Focus" session he attended and a new law that was passed by the Legislature that took effect July 1, 2011 but not signed into law by the governor. The key concern is section 3, which has to do with reduction in force. He further talked about the severability law and that he didn't find it in the teacher's contract. He's concerned about there being challenges to the proposed 15 teacher reduction that won't be resolved due to conflict in the teacher's contract. (Senate bill 196 chapter 267) He mentioned a "double riff"; this was a rather serious issue because of the way it was presented and the need to obtain the proper legal advice to do it. Louis Lieto said they did change the policy last year in response to that law. "Reduction in force will be based on performance and not seniority."
 - Louis Lieto said he would raise that with the Dr. Ross in their meeting tomorrow morning. Vincent Paul Migliore further talked about the law, the legality issues and approaching the union.

124 ***Adjournment***

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- 126
- *Lloyd Belbin motioned to adjourn Paul Rheinhardt seconded approved.*

127 URLs Accessed: <http://www.sau4.org>

128 <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa.html>

129

130 Respectfully submitted,

131

132 Amy Lyn Kench

133 School Board Clerk