

**SAU #9 BOARD
Pine Tree School Cafeteria
September 9, 2010**

Attending:

Jane Gray, Chairman, Eaton
Pat Philbrick, Eaton
Judie Goss, Eaton
Andrew Kearns, Jackson
Lauren Synnott, Jackson
Syndi White, Conway
Lynne Brydon, Conway
Dick Klement, Conway
Janine McLauchlan, Conway
Rick Breton, Conway

Dr. Carl Nelson, SAU #9 Superintendent
Dr. Robert Gadomski, SAU #9 Asst. Supt.
James Sabina, Albany
Vicki Harlow, Bartlett
Nancy Kelemen, Bartlett
Dan Perley, Bartlett

Recording Secretary:
Gail T. Currier

Audience: 0

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Approval of Minutes (6-10-10):** Motion by Mr. Sabina, second by Ms. Kelemen, that the Minutes of the June 10th meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried with 10 votes in the affirmative and 4 abstentions (Perley, Goss, Breton, Synnott).
4. **Personnel:**

A. Consider Re-election of Cheryl Ferris as Part-time Receptionist – Motion by Ms. Philbrick, second by Ms. Kelemen, that Cheryl Ferris be re-elected as part-time receptionist for 2010-11. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Consider Approval of Dr. Nelson’s Goals and Objectives for 2010-11 – Motion by Mr. Breton, second by Mr. Kearns, to approve goals for Dr. Nelson for the ensuing year as recommended. Ms. Gray reported the goals have been reviewed by the Executive Board and are recommended as written. Ms. Harlow voiced concerns about the SATs and whether kids are able to pass the AP exams, and concern about the drop out rate. Dr. Nelson stated that would be a goal which would be included in Mr. Moylan’s goals.

Ms. White said in looking at SATs, it is a district-wide issue, also we have to look at curriculum - it is not just an isolated high school issue. Dr. Gadomski said he has heard from all of the Principals when writing the improvement plan one concern is spending so much time trying to improve kids at the bottom in NECAPs, while paying less attention to those at the top.

Mr. Perley said regarding the drop out rate, the third year is listed at 0% - he thinks that is an aspirational goal, but is it really an achievable goal for Dr. Nelson to be rated on at the end of the year? Dr. Nelson said he appreciates the concern, but would not want to change it. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

5. Business Affairs:

A. FYI – 2009-10 Summary of Expenses and Receipts – Information not available.

B. Consider Authorizing Signatories for SAU Documents – Motion by Mr. Sabina, second by Mr. Kearns, that Supt. Carl Nelson and Asst. Supt. Robert Gadomski be designated to sign forms on behalf of the SAU. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. Administrators' Reports:

A. Next Meeting: November 18, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in Eaton.

B. Next Executive Board Meeting: October 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the SAU Office.

C. FYI – Target Goals for 2009-12 – Ms. Harlow, making reference to Better Health & Wellness/Improved nutrition/decreased chemical dependency, noted she works with people who must be on certain chemicals and she would rather the wording be changed to “all illegal drugs.” Mr. Klement felt it would be in a child’s best interest if they could get off these drugs as appropriate. Ms. Harlow pointed out some people cannot, i.e. diabetics. Mr. Klement said there are ways to reduce the amount they are taking. Ms. Harlow cited the case where someone is bipolar and is taking a long lasting chemical that may be needed. **In the final analysis it was agreed the wording would stay as is.**

Ms. Goss noted there are children who think every time they have a headache they need an aspirin or Tylenol, and suggested we look at alternatives, such as taking a walk, relaxing, and having a drink of water. She agrees on the point about illegal drugs.

D. Summary of Exit Interviews – Dr. Gadomski distributed information on exit interviews, noting each person who leaves any building throughout SAU 9 is offered an opportunity for an exit interview. Dr. Nelson suggested Board members may want to review the information and revisit it at another time.

Ms. McLaughlin questioned whether the information is shared with staff and was told it is not. However, Dr. Gadomski said the overall report (with names blanked out) is given to the building Principals. Ms. Gray suggested if anyone has concerns on any particular area that they call Dr. Gadomski.

7. Any Other Business:

A. Guidelines for 2011-12 School Calendar – Mr. Klement commented that last year they had three half days for teacher workshops, this year they are back to four, and he personally opposes that in that we are taking a half day away from childhood education. He stated that teachers, by contract, are required to have time after school once a month at the high school - he suggests doing it after school and not alter the schedule. Ms. White said the reason for some of it is when they have people come in and need perhaps a 3-hour block to get staff up to speed on technology or curriculum or new techniques. She noted staff development time is very important. Mr. Klement stated he has no problem with teacher workshop days, but has a problem with taking the time away from studies.

Ms. Goss questioned whether he has a problem with kids taking half a day to ski? Mr. Klement stated he does. Ms. Kelemen felt with athletics you are working for a common goal – that is carried through with any employment. With athletics and ski days, they are all trying to get better. Ms. Brydon said she would like to see it continue with the elementary and junior high.

Mr. Kearns questioned why it increased from 3 to 4 days. Dr. Gadomski said given the number of things we are asking teachers to do, the bottom line is there is not enough time available. Principals have expressed the desire that we keep the early release days to keep teachers up to speed. He said to address Mr. Klement's concern of less teaching time, hopefully, they make that up in the Professional Development and collaboration with other teachers.

Ms. McLaughlin expressed concern as to where some of the days are placed, for instance, the Tues. prior to April vacation. Dr. Nelson explained that was a request of the town because it is voting day and they use the high school as their polling place. Ms. McLaughlin noted they have two early release days that are the Friday before a Monday when there is no school. Ms. Kelemen feels it makes it easier for the parents, rather than in the middle of the week have to find babysitters, etc. She feels that not a lot goes on on the Friday prior to a 3-day weekend.

Dr. Gadomski said there is not a lot of after school time – contractually, it covers basically staff meetings. Mr. Klement said, contractually, they are required to have one-half hour beyond school, and one extra hour per month - he feels that could be put together at the high school. Ms. Philbrick said the hour and a half is used for department meetings.

Ms. McLaughlin pointed out the 4th early release day is actually the last day of school so we are really looking at three. She noted that, by contract, the teachers have 7 teacher workshop days, these early release days are being used as teacher workshop days. Ms. Kelemen questioned whether every Principal of all the schools think the 4 days are important. Dr. Nelson said he has discussed it with them and they think they are extremely valuable.

The Chair asked for a show of hands in order to forward a recommendation to the Calendar Committee: Keeping it at the 4 early release days – 5; reducing number of early

release days to 2 or 3 – 9; eliminating early release days altogether – 0. Ms. Gray announced the recommendation from this Board is to reduce the number of early release days.

Other Business – FYI – Ms. McLaughlin said there have been questions from parents as to the reading time added at the high school and whether students can get credit for this time; there has also been some question whether it could also apply to writing. She suggested maybe communication go out explaining the justification for the reading time. Dr. Nelson stated there will be an open house in October at which time that concern can be addressed.

Ms. Gray reported that the Executive Board discussed guidelines for the SAU budget for next year. The consensus was to ask for as close to a zero increase as possible, and to recommend for a first draft to look at a pool rather than a percent of increase, and base it on Social Security index. Mr. Klement said he came in on the “no raise” side, but it makes sense to start somewhere.

10. Non Public Session – None.

11. Adjourn: Motion was made by Ms. McLaughlin, seconded by Ms. Kelemen and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Carrier, Recording Secretary