

**Albany School Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 9, 2010**  
**DRAFT**

Present: Board members James Sabina, Laurie Ferris and Colleen Cormack. Also in attendance were Kim Guptill and Carl Nelson. Public: 1

- (1) James Sabina called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (9-14-10) – Laurie Ferris made a motion to approve the minutes. Colleen Cormack seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 2-1-0. Laurie Ferris abstaining. Approval of Minutes (10-4-10) – Colleen Cormack made a motion to approve the minutes. Laurie Ferris seconded the motion.** Colleen asked to amend the minutes to reflect the bus route extension request was to a relative's home. **The minutes were approved as amended 3-0-0.** Colleen asked Carl to have the amended minutes e-mailed to Kathy Vizard at the town office, as she posts them on the web-site.
- (3) **Board Member Comments** – Colleen asked Carl several questions regarding the contract Albany has with Conway. Carl said Pam Stimpson is considered Albany's LEA representative as she is with the other smaller surrounding towns. Colleen said she reads the k-6 contract to say that we agreed to having 3 joint board meetings a year with the Conway School Board, Albany and any other towns that sends to the elementary program (all together) and that the meeting is for the purposes of discussing the elementary schools. Carl said that all 3 contracts include the 3 joint board meeting and those 3 are held in October, January and May (and a special one has been called for the end of this month). Colleen pointed out that elementary school principals do not attend those meetings and it does not appear to be appropriate to use that time to discuss the goings on of Conway Elementary while boards from Freedom, Tamworth and others are there. Also, there are only 2 Conway board members that attend those meetings. Carl said 3 of the Conway board members are reps and if we had something specific we wanted to discuss he could have the elementary principals attend. Colleen asked about the 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade contract where it talks about state and federal funding changes. She asked if there were a substantial change in what we receive would those changes alter the balance between districts, allowing us to petition our way out of the contract. Carl explained Conway could end up getting more money through adequacy grants but will not know that until Nov. 15, and other funding is up in the air and it is not known how that will turn out until much later. Regardless, Carl said the balance would not change and Albany makes out pretty well as it is.

Jamie brought up the request for the board to write a letter to the Conway School Board Regarding the proposed budget cuts as the Jackson School Board had done. Colleen explained that inquiry came from Kathy Carrier. She also said if we did decide to write a letter it could not be identical, as there were some cuts she was in favor of, like not buying new furniture right now. Laurie requested we open it up to public comments.

- (4) **Public Comments:** Kathy Carrier said she was a parent and teacher, but was here to speak as an Albany parent. She said she and other Albany residents (that were not able to attend tonight) had concerns about the proposed budget cuts and is there to learn more and get a feel for where the board was at. Laurie explained she had been approached by several others with concerns as well. Carl explained the cuts as an exercise the Conway board was going through. He said the Conway board asked the administrators to show what a million and a million and a half cut would look like while

trying to minimize the impact on students and education. Colleen mentioned she had attended a Conway School Board meeting and a Municipal Budget Committee meeting the following week. She said members of the Conway board were open to and looking for community support and ideas of how to cut the budget. Carl said the administrators know their programs very well and he felt they did a great job with the task they were given. He explained that, for instance, French was looked at because it has the least enrollment and the teacher can teach both French and Spanish. Jamie asked how many football teams there were. Carl said one and explained that the one team splits into other groups and that it worked the same way for field hockey. He explained there were paid coaches and several volunteers. Kathy asked where the Albany School Board members stood. Colleen explained she was not in favor of cutting any student programming or teaching staff. She said programs like dance and language enhance academics and contribute to the entire school climate. She felt areas she would look to cut would be areas of “overhead,” so administration should be at least looked at and she believes there are savings to be had in the area of energy efficiency. Colleen states we now know that 25% of energy use in the average school building is energy waste. Kathy asked if those systems required an initial investment. Colleen explained it is wise to eliminate waste before you purchase a system, because the more energy you use the bigger the system has to be, therefore the higher the cost. She cited the example of a common practice in many school districts (not just Conway) where custodians will leave lights on in areas they have already cleaned to indicate the cleaning in that room is completed. Colleen says it’s a matter of rethinking the way we do things. She said while it may seem overwhelming to change the behavior of people, it can and has been done. Jamie apologized to Kathy for not being able to offer where he stood on the specifics of the cuts. He has not a chance to read them yet.

(5) **Signing of Checks and Manifest** – Colleen asked about the position of treasurer and clerk. She notices the position of clerk is only paid \$50 and wondered what were the duties of that position. Carl explained it was a duty done at voting time; collecting and announcing results.

(6) **Business Affairs** - None

(7) **Superintendents Report** – The next Sau9 meeting will be November 18, 2010 at The Eaton Town Hall. On November 22, 2010 the Conway School Board will meet to discuss the budget cuts at KHS. SAU9 and SAU13 Joint Board will meet November 30, 2010 at KHS in The Mineral Springs Café.

(8) **Other Business** – Next Albany board meeting will be January 11, 2010 at 5:15pm at the Albany Town Hall. The budget hearing will be February 8, 2011. The next school district meeting will be on March 8, 2011 at 7pm at the Albany Town Hall.

(9) **Laurie Ferris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00pm. The motion was seconded by Colleen Cormack. The motion passed 3-0-0.**