SALEM SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #57
SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Planning Session

January 17, 2017
7:00 p.m.
SHS TV Studio

MINUTES

Present:
Mrs. Pamela Berry, Chairman
Mr. Bernard Campbell, Vice Chairman
Mr. Peter Morgan, Secretary
Mr. Michael Carney, Jr., Member
Mrs. Patricia Corbett, Member

Also Present:
Dr. Michael Delahanty, Ed. D., Superintendent
Mrs. Maura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Deborah Payne, Assistant Superintendent
for Business Operations
Mrs. Diana Darnstaedt, Director of Finance

Mrs. Berry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA

Signing of the Warrant Articles
Dr. Delahanty circulated copies of the warrant articles to be signed by the board members, and noted that Linda Cornwell was present to notarize the documents.

Speakers to Articles
Mrs. Berry assigned the speakers to the articles as follows:
Article 2 – Mr. Campbell
Article 3 – Mr. Carney
Article 4 – Mrs. Corbett
Article 5 – Mr. Morgan
Article 6 – Mrs. Berry

Strategic Plan Update
Dr. Delahanty stated that he wanted to discuss the performance indicators of the strategies in the district’s Strategic Plan, including a timeline for completion. The committees working on the strategies have made adjustments as a need was determined.

Dr. Delahanty began his review with improving and maintaining facilities. He noted the first performance indicators are related to the high school and all of those indicators have been met
due to the renovations. Preventative maintenance needs are being managed with an online system which has been very efficient. The facilities master plan has one more project to be addressed and that is Woodbury School. Once that school is addressed, this strategy will be complete.

The second strategy Dr. Delahanty discussed is fostering community support and engagement which includes media. He explained that a community survey was conducted electronically and on paper several years ago but he did not feel the information gathered was very revealing. He explained there is a web application that is now providing information to parents as a way to get information out immediately. Twitter and Facebook have also been used to get messages out to the public. Dr. Delahanty stated the website redesign has been completed and is more visually appealing and includes more information that is easily accessible for individuals to look at. The objective to build partnership with key community organizations has been successful and includes the Chamber of Commerce. They collaborated on the Salem Scramble, Night of Lights, and Fourth of July events. The district is also partners with the Salem Police and Fire Departments, and the Boys and Girls Club. Dr. Delahanty stated there has been discussion about forming an alumni association, but as of yet there has not been much interest so it has been placed aside for now. The Community Engagement Committee continues to work on developing ways of communication and creating public relations strategies.

Dr. Delahanty passed out information from Mr. Hasbany, Director of IT, to the board. The objective for a district wide technology plan was initiated by Mr. Hasbany but technology progressed so quickly that it was determined that this was not a priority. Mr. Campbell expressed concern that there should be some kind of review of the technology students should be using. He feels a group meeting to guide the district’s thinking as far as what works for technology might be a wise idea. Dr. Delahanty explained that there has been a redesign of the technology education program at Woodbury and they will be beginning the Project Lead The Way Launch program in grades 4 and 5 next year at the elementary schools.

Dr. Delahanty stated that professional development has been a priority. There is professional development offered all the time and it focuses on hardware the district has and how to use it. Cloud based applications is another area being focused on. The delayed openings and early release days focus on the use of technology as well. He spoke about the parent portal and also cloud based applications to support math and literacy programming.

The last strategy discussed was the 21st Century Learner. Mrs. Palmer stated that everything already discussed is included in this category. She stated the use of Twitter and Facebook, the applications, and technology are all related. The nature of this objective is always ongoing. Mrs. Palmer explained that they have been successful with all work to align to grade level standards. She stated that iReady and benchmark assessments and everything that is taught and tested, reports back to the district standards. She also noted that professional development is ongoing and as new standards come along, the teachers are being trained. Mrs. Palmer stated the District Data Team meets regularly and continues to focus on problem solving. The assessment and instruction meetings (AIM) are an extension of the school day for teachers and are ongoing. The purpose of those meetings is to look at instructional data to help with moving forward to individualized instruction. The last part of the objective has to do with partnerships. Mrs.
Palmer stated there are several strong partnerships in place that have been successful for the district.

Dr. Delahanty stated the strategic plan is expected to run through 2018 and it will be revisited in the fall of 2018. He stated the community will be invited in for input and then the new plan will be established for three to five more years.

**2017-2018 Calendar Proposal**

Dr. Delahanty stated the proposal is a traditional calendar and that the early release and delayed opening dates are included, with five instead of six. November has a teacher conference day and one day out for Veteran’s Day. He stated that almost every district has the day before Thanksgiving off or at least a half day. He stated that the district usually has 93-96% attendance on a normal school day and the day before Thanksgiving was at 90%, with students who are dismissed for traveling throughout that day. He explained that he would not be opposed to having a half day the day before Thanksgiving because of that drop in attendance; however, he would not support having that whole day off. He stated he could come back with a proposal for an adjusted shortened school day. Dr. Delahanty then reviewed the rest of the calendar with the board members.

**OTHER**

Dr. Delahanty stated online kindergarten registration process begins tomorrow.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Carney seconded by Mr. Campbell to adjourn.

Motion carried 5-0

The board adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Lani R. Leland
Recording Secretary, Salem School Board
January 17, 2017