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

Regular Meeting
February 10, 2015
7:00 p.m.
SHS TV Studio

MINUTES

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

Also Present:
Dr. Michael Delahaney, Ed. D., Superintendent
Mrs. Maura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Deborah Payne, Director of Finance

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the January 20, 2015 Planning Session
Motion by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Campbell to adopt the minutes as circulated.
   Motion carried 5-0

Vendor and payroll manifests were passed for signature.

CONSENT AGENDA

Co-Curricular Nomination
Christina Miano Varsity Lacrosse Coach at Salem High School

Motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Carney to adopt the consent agenda as read.
   Motion carried 5-0

MONTHLY PRESENTATION ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Soule School
Mrs. Palmer welcomed the Soule School staff and made note that at a previous meeting the K-8 Math Director Angela Markley was present to discuss Spatial Temporal Math (ST Math) which is an online math program. She then introduced Ms. Anna Parrill, Principal of Soule School who was recently also named Principal of the Year.
Mrs. Angela Markley approached the board and gave an overview of the ST Math program. She explained that it is a game based on-line program intended to supplement the math taught in the classroom. It is a highly effective visual learning tool in which students have to identify and solve problems. The animation of the program provides specific feedback about the answers student give, as well.

Mrs. Leslie Cuolo, fourth grade teacher, explained that the visual concepts of ST Math cater to a very wide range of students with different math abilities and they are all able to succeed. She stated it can also be implemented during direct instruction because of its visual nature. Mrs. Cuolo then introduced four students: Georgie Fortin, Nick Antonetti, Madison Donahue, and Elizabeth Jackson who took turns demonstrating various math problems using the ST Math Program.

Ms. Melody Somers approached the board and stated that this unique non-language based program has proven to be beneficial to ESOL students by making more connections to classroom instruction when ST Math is incorporated for them.

Mrs. Kathleen Pappalardo came forward to discuss how ST Math can be used at home. She stated that students can log into their account and use the program on any device they have. Students can then practice skills at home and often times share their accomplishments with their teachers when they are in the classroom. She then introduced two more students along with their mothers to discuss using ST Math at home.

Student Justice Casado stated that he enjoys working on the ST Math at home or at the Boys and Girls Club so that he can finish working on different levels of the math games that he was challenged with at school. Justice’s mother Yinelle stated that having the on line math makes her son actually excited to do homework and makes him feel accomplished when he is able to pass the different levels of math games.

Student Gianna Armano stated she likes practicing with ST Math at home in order to pass a lot of levels and it helps her to remember what she was taught by her teacher in school. Gianna’s mother Jean stated that Gianna struggles a bit in math but is finding the ST Math program to be very beneficial because of its game like format.

Mrs. Meg Bentley stated she meets with the fourth grade team on a weekly basis and is finding the ST Math program to be successful in coordinating with the district curriculum. She noted that because it is such a visual learning tool, it can be used as a whole class lesson as well and excites students to learn about math. The Soule School staff is grateful to have this supplemental program in addition to their math instruction.

Mr. Carney asked how student improvement can be tracked. It was answered that an assessment is done at the end of the lessons that students complete, along with their percentage of success. At that point teachers can go back and re-teach any concepts that may need review.

Mr. Campbell asked if this is the first year this program has run and if there is a long term goal to help students further even though the program is very visual with limited language. Mrs.
Markley answered that this is year one of ST Math and it is being piloted at one grade level at each of the elementary schools. As far as the program being very visual, she noted that there are various levels to the math games and it does develop into much more complicated concepts. There is a point in each game where language integration is introduced. It begins with a very visual concept but includes language as well when students reach that level. Mrs. Markley again noted that this is a supplemental program to the classroom instruction.

Mr. Carney asked if this is going to be rolled out to other grade levels. Dr. Delahanty stated because of the board’s support it will be rolled out more broadly in the 2015-2016 school year so it will be available to all students.

Mrs. Corbett congratulated the students on their presentation and the staff for their hard work on the presentation. Dr. Delahanty also thanked the students and staff for their presentation and stated that they explained ST Math very well.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

Acceptance of Soule School Gift
Karen Verry, grade 5 teacher, and Mrs. Parrill wrote a proposal through Whole Foods Whole Kids Foundation to support the creation of a school garden called Soule Foods.

Dr. Delahanty stated several schools applied for the Whole Foods award but Soule School is the school that was chosen. He then introduced Principal Ms. Parrill.

Ms. Parrill stated this grant will be used to improve school nutrition through creating a school garden consisting of raised garden beds which will be known as Soule Foods. She explained that she and Mrs. Verry, a fifth grade teacher, applied for the grant and the goal is to integrate the garden into all subject areas, for students to learn about farming, and encourage students to be team players as well as try and explore new foods. The community partner in this would be Mr. Mike Peters from Peter’s Farm which is conveniently located across the street from the Soule School. The plan is to run a garden club to work on planting, weeding, and harvesting crops.

Motion by Mr. Carney, seconded by Mr. Morgan to authorize the acceptance of the Whole Foods grant in the amount of $2000 to Soule School to support their school garden called Soule Foods. Motion carried 5-0

Adoption of the 2015-2016 School Year Calendar
Dr. Delahanty stated this calendar proposal has brought more responses to the staff survey asking for feedback than usual. He stated there were more “no” responses than in the past due to the earlier start date. The proposed date for teachers to return to work is August 24 and August 26 for the students. Dr. Delahanty stated that this is typically what the calendar looks like and he feels Labor Day should not signify the end of the summer. He also pointed out that neighboring districts are proposing calendars with student start dates of August 26. He noted the only district starting later is Windham and that is a result of a contractual agreement with the teachers and the school board.
Dr. Delahanty also noted the other opposition with the calendar was to hold a half day of school on the day before Thanksgiving. He stated that approximately 236 students are usually dismissed early the day before Thanksgiving but compared to the total number of students in the district that is not a significantly high number. He stated Salem has had between 95% to 97% attendance rate on the day before Thanksgiving so he does not feel a half day is necessary at this time but could be looked at in the future.

Motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Morgan to adopt the calendar as presented by the Superintendent.

Motion carried 4-0-1

Mrs. Berry abstained

Mr. Campbell stated that he does have concerns about the early start but does feel staff is accustomed to beginning before Labor Day. He noted that there is an extra weekend taken off because of where Labor Day falls this year.

2014-2015 Calendar Adjustment

Dr. Delahanty stated there are two professional development days in March built into the calendar with the option of making those two days in school days. He stated that he is hoping we are done with inclement weather days for the year, but there have been four to date. He then recommended scheduling Monday, March 23, and Tuesday March 24, as student days. This will help keep the high school graduation date at a reasonable time in June.

Motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Carney to authorize the Superintendent to make March 23 and 24, as student in school days as recommended.

Motion carried

At this time Mrs. Corbett added to the agenda a discussion about the Cenergistic contract. No one opposed.

Cenergistic

Dr. Delahanty stated that there has been some publicity about Windham’s withdrawal in the contract with Salem and Cenergistic. At this time Dr. Delahanty recommended that Salem forgo the contract with Cenergistic.

Mr. Campbell asked if there was contingency language in the contract if we were to withdraw from the contract, and if we would be required to take any action at this time. Dr. Delahanty stated his preference is to have the board authorize him to withdraw from the agreement, but we can move forward without that authorization, and just tell Cenergistic that given the conditions of the agreement we will no longer partner with them.

Motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Berry to withdraw its participation in the Cenergistic energy contract as a result of previous failure to consummate an agreement with the Windham School District.

Motion carried 5-0
Mr. Carney stated he felt the program would have been a benefit to the district and Cenergistic should be told that if there is another neighboring community to enter in to a contract with Salem would possibly still be interested. The board members agreed.

**APPOINTMENT PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** — None

**PRESENTATION OF POLICIES/REPORTS BY SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF**

**SAT Results**
Dr. Delahanty stated the high school Principal Tracy Collyer and the Director of Guidance Heidi Greenlaw are present to discuss the SAT results. He noted that the scores are not going in the right direction but it is something that is constantly being worked on.

Mrs. Collyer stated that since the scores have been released, specific skills within each component of the test have been reviewed by Mrs. Greenlaw and herself. Mrs. Greenlaw explained that the SATs are hosted four times at Salem High School and it is recommended that juniors participate. She then reviewed the scores of the Class of 2014 students in the areas of math, reading, and writing. She reviewed the five year comparisons in those subject areas, comparing Salem with the New Hampshire and national scores.

Mrs. Greenlaw stated that there is a redesign for the PSAT and SAT testing. The exam will be a little bit longer and the essay will be optional for the writing portion. The idea for the redesign is to align the testing with the common core curriculum.

**Deliberative Session Follow-up**
The Superintendent stated the board usually creates a presentation for local channel 6 to discuss the collective bargaining agreements. He stated that Mr. McCue is available on February 12 for the recordings. Mrs. Berry suggested how to conduct the recording, and the board agreed to meet at 4:00 p.m. on February 12.

**SHS CTE, Phase III Update**
Dr. Delahanty stated that Phase 1 will begin in April of 2015, with the entrance road being installed off of Geremonty. The construction manager will be set up in the back of the building so that area will be off limits except for deliveries. He reviewed a drawing of the work to be done and noted it will be posted on the website.

Mr. Carney asked what will be done with the parking we will lose. Dr. Delahanty noted that parking will be more restricted for students than usual. Mrs. Berry recommended sending letters home informing parents about the restricted parking during this phase of renovation.

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**
Mr. Carney took a moment to apologize to the board and the chairman. He stated he had failed to notify the Chairperson he could not attend the town deliberative session, so there was a vote taken that would not have passed if he had been in attendance or if a substitute was sent in his place.
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**Future Meeting Dates**
February 11, 2015; Legislative Delegation
February 17, 2015; Planning Session
February 24, 2015; Board Meeting

**Future Agenda Items**
- Salem School Board Self-Evaluation
- Strategic Plan Update
- District Technology Use

**Adjournment**
Motion by Mr. Carney, seconded by Mr. Morgan to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91:A:3(II)(c)

Mr. Morgan  yes
Mr. Carney  yes
Mrs. Berry  yes
Mr. Campbell  yes
Mrs. Corbett  yes

Motion carried 5-0

The board entered the non-public session at 8:28 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Carney, seconded by Mr. Morgan to adjourn.
  Motion carried 5-0

The board adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Lani R. Leland
Recording Secretary, Salem School Board
February 10, 2015