

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 50

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The SAU 50 Joint School Board met on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the Rye Junior High School, Rye, NH.

School Board Members Present: Alyson Baryames, Kevin Brandon, Randy Bunnell, Margaret Honda, Mark Joyce, Randall Lynch, Scott Marion, Jack O'Reilly, Anne Pinciario, Richard Spaulding, Paula Tsetsilas

School Board Members Not Present: Maria Emory, Sarah Huestis, Jeanne Moynahan, Dave Mueller, Patrick Walsh

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
James Katkin, Business Administrator
Amy R. Ransom, Assistant Business Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Dr. Marion called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Lynch, the Board approved the public minutes from the Sept. 27, 2017 SAU 50 Joint Board meeting. Vote: 7-0-4.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia informed the Board that Mr. Katkin, SAU 50 Business Administrator, submitted a letter dated November 9, 2017 indicating his intention to retire from his position effective June 30, 2018.

On a motion made by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Pinciario, the Board accepted Mr. Katkin's letter of retirement with sincere appreciation. All members voted in favor of accepting his retirement, 11-0.

ASST BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ransom presented the preliminary SAU 50 Operating Budget for FY 2019. The gross proposed budget is \$1,562,829 representing a \$58,307 decrease from the current fiscal year. Salary and benefits comprise 90% of budget. Within next 3 years, Ms. Ransom hopes to have all employees at 80/20 benefit reimbursement. The retirement of Business Administrator provides the most significant cost savings, while the proposal of a Technology Director position reflects the largest budgetary increase.

Dr. Joyce made a motion to open for discussion; seconded by Mr. Brandon.

The biggest point of discussion was the proposal of a new Technology Director position. Ms. Ransom explained this new position would be responsible for managing the firewall, overseeing the new website, and troubleshooting. Mr. Petralia distributed the job description.

Upon reviewing the job description, Board members asked for clarification to determine if this was a strategic versus day-to-day operations position. Board member Randy Bunnell spoke in support of more technology in the SAU and in the districts.

Ms. Ransom gave examples of how the current technology system slows down productivity as outsourced vendors sometimes have "ticketed" items in queue for two weeks.

Dr. Marion expressed concern regarding the authority of the position and how to serve a multi-school district. Mr. Petralia indicated this would be a central office position and this individual would report directly to the Superintendent. Ms. Honda suggested that the job description be revisited to identify if the position is strategic versus tactical.

Mr. Petralia recommended that, because this is a preliminary budget, Board members should take time to think about the discussion and email him or Ms. Ransom with questions.

Dr. Joyce motioned in favor of an amended budget to increase the position from 80% FTE to 100% FTE with an understanding that the role needs to be more clearly defined. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pinciario. Member Richard Spaulding mentioned that this stands out as an important investment, and we need to agree on what that job entails.

Motion carried, 11-0.

AGENDA PLANNING

Next meeting is December 20, 2017 at 5:30 pm at Rye Junior High.

ACTION ITEMS

- Board members should come to next meeting prepared with questions to proposed budget and can submit them via email to the Assistant Business Administrator in advance.
- For December meeting, Administration will provide the objective of the Technology Director position and will have a detailed description for March meeting before hiring process begins. Technology Committee and additional SAU personnel with expertise will provide input into this description.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Joyce moved to adjourn at 6:27pm. Seconded by Mr. Spaulding. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Tsetsilas



Rye School Board Member and Secretary