

**School Administrative Unit No. 20 Board
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
Milan Village School Library**

SAU 20 Board Members Present:

Leona Guay, Alice Evankow, Michael Waddell, Wendy Niskanen, Kathleen Kelley, Jay Holmes, Jo Carpenter, Angela Brown, Karen Cloutier, Jean Tremblay, Anne Hill, Robert Corrigan, and Patricia Shute.

SAU Staff Present:

Superintendent Patrick Low, Business Administrator Pauline Plourde, Office Manager Maria Delisle, and Ed Fenn Principal Paul Bousquet.

Others Present:

Members of the public.

Call to Order

SAU20 Board Chairman, Leona Guay, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: By Jean Tremblay; Seconded by Robert Corrigan.

To: Approve the meeting minutes of December 1, 2005 as presented.

Vote on Motion: Ten in favor; none opposed; three abstained (Anne Hill, Wendy Niskanen, and Jay Holmes). Motion passes.

Motion: By Angela Brown; Seconded by Kathleen Kelley.

To: Approve the meeting minutes of February 23, 2006 as presented.

Vote on Motion: Twelve in favor; none opposed; one abstained (Jean Tremblay). Motion passes.

Written Communications/Public Comments

None offered.

Review of SPED Co-Director Contract

The Board reviewed the contract for Steven Gordon. Board members questioned the wording of the contract, which was between SAU 20 and Ragged Mountain Educational Consulting, L. L. C. Superintendent Low informed the Board that it was Mr. Gordon's wife's company, and that he had requested the contract be written as presented. Mr. Low and Mrs. Plourde noted that contracts are often set up in this manner even though an individual is being hired for services.

Motion: By Trisha Shute; Seconded by Jo Carpenter.

To: Accept the proposed contract for SPED Co-Director Steven Gordon or Ragged Mountain Educational Consulting, L.L.C, pending legal review and recommendation by the attorney.

Discussion: Some grammatical changes were made to the contract.

Vote on Motion: Eleven in favor; two opposed. Motion passes.

The Board instructed the Superintendent to obtain legal counsel regarding the contract wording and whether or not it conflicted with the motion to hire Mr. Gordon, as made at the last SAU Board meeting.

Internal Interim Superintendent Posting Results

Mr. Low was excused for the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Guay informed the Board that there was only one internal applicant for the position of Superintendent. Prior to the meeting, Ms. Guay informed the applicant of their right to request a nonpublic session to be considered and interviewed, and to keep his academic and employment history confidential. The applicant agreed to allow the SAU Board members to review his academic and employment history, and to be interviewed by the Board in public.

Ms. Guay read the letter by Ed Fenn Principal Paul Bousquet, indicating his interest in the interim superintendent position. Paul Partenope, former SAU 20 Business Administrator and Chairman of the Search Committee who hired Mr. Bousquet as principal several years ago offered the comment that Mr. Bousquet is an excellent choice for the position as Superintendent.

Mr. Bousquet's resume, letter of interest, college transcripts, letter of eligibility from the DOE, and an explanation of Options 3, 4 and 5 were passed out to Board members for their review.

Board members interviewed Mr. Bousquet over the next hour and a half. (A synopsis of questions and answers will be available through the SAU 20 office).

Upon Board request, Mrs. Plourde and Mrs. Delisle offered their input regarding what the District needs in terms of superintendent services. Several Board members shared their experiences with Paul as an administrator in a variety of different scenarios.

Mr. Bousquet and SAU staff were excused for the remainder of the meeting.

The SAU Board briefly discussed Options 3, 4 and 5, which would allow the SAU to hire a someone as a superintendent even though they have not yet been certified. Officers of the Board offered input received from legal counsel during a recent conference call. Clarification of a few issues involving the term "interim", as well as length of contract that could be offered, will require additional legal counsel.

Motion: By Mike Waddell; Seconded by Trisha Shute.

To: Offer Paul Bousquet the position of Superintendent, beginning July 1, 2006, with a contract of up to three years with details of the contract to be determined by the Board and Mr. Bousquet with legal counsel.

Vote on Motion: All in favor; motion passes.

The Board requested Ms. Guay inform Mr. Bousquet of the Board's decision and request that he submit some of his contractual requirements/preferences to Ms. Guay as soon as possible. The Board officers will meet to discuss the details of the contract, submit it to legal counsel for review, and offer it to Mr. Bousquet for review prior to the next Board meeting. Officers of the Board were given salary and contractual guidelines and expectations with which to work.

Ms. Guay reminded the Board that Mr. Bousquet is still currently under contract with the Gorham School District, and the Gorham School Board would need to have a meeting to vote on whether or not to release Mr. Bousquet from his contract as Principal. She will ask Mr. Bousquet to forward a letter of request to be released from his contract if he decides to accept the position as Superintendent.

Next Meeting

The next SAU Board meeting will be scheduled sometime in April, once a finalized contract is ready for approval by the Board and Mr. Bousquet.

Adjournment

Motion: By Jean Tremblay; Seconded by Anne Hill.

To: Adjourn the meeting of the SAU 20 Board.

Vote on Motion: All in favor; motion passes.

The SAU 20 Board meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Leona Guay