

**S.A.D. #44 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2007
7:30 PM – TELSTAR HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES**

I CALL TO ORDER:

Directors Absent: Mr. Pew

Others Present: Ms. Aloisio, Mr. Davis, Mr. Tornrose, Ms. Waite, Mr. Brown, Mr. Raymond, Ms. Littlehale, Ms. Davis, Mr. Sabin, Mr. Rice, Ms. Tancrelle

Pledge of Allegiance

II ACTION ON MINUTES:

None

III CITIZEN COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

Members of the THS/TMS community were present for the discussion regarding the proposed School Resource Officer position at the THS/TMS complex.

IV BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

A Board member commented that they had seen the Superintendent of SAD#35 on the news stating that he did not think consolidation was a good idea.

Chairman's Report

V COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS:

SAD #44 Board Meeting: Monday, September 17, 2007 – Telstar Library – 7:30 PM

Executive Committee: TBD

Education Committee: Tuesday, September 18, 2007 – 4:00 PM - EBS

Personnel Committee: TBD

Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: TBD

Negotiations Committee: TBD

Finance Committee: Monday, September 17, 2007 – 7:15 PM – Andover

Policy Committee: Tuesday, September 18, 2007 – 5:30 PM - EBS

Region 9 Cooperative Board: Tuesday, September 18, 2007 – 7:00 PM

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VI COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Mr. Polak
Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: Ms. Cross
Finance Committee: Mr. Pew
Negotiations Committee: Mr. Pew
Personnel Committee: Ms. Brown
Policy Committee: Ms. Largess
Region 9 Cooperative Board: Mr. Farrington

VII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Dr. Murphy commended the custodial and maintenance crew for the excellent cleaning of the buildings for the opening of school.

VIII OLD BUSINESS:

None

IX NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion - None
2. Adjustments to the Agenda - None
3. After a lengthy discussion Ms. Cummings motioned to approve authorizing the Superintendent to send a letter of intent to the Commissioner for the Consolidation of SAD 44 with SAD 43, Union 37, Upton, Gilead and Hanover or any combination thereof.

MOTION: Ms. Cummings SECOND: Ms. Cross VOTE: 13 yea
3 nay (Ms. Arizzi,
Mr. Korhonen, Ms. Thurston)

Dr. Murphy began the discussion by stating that substantial changes are being made in a short period of time. The law is vague and at times contradicts itself. Some aspects of the law are expected to come up for discussion when the legislature reconvenes in January, 2008. Dr. Murphy referred to several articles in recent newspapers including one regarding Lewiston/Auburn going on their own. He stated that he has not found any savings with consolidation. Dr. Murphy stated that he has spoken to other Superintendent's and facilitators and only a handful of Consolidation Planning Committees have been formed.

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Dr. Murphy reported that he has met three times with area Superintendents in the past two weeks and, at the Board's direction, has looked at many possible configurations. From a fiscal point of view there are no configurations that are beneficial to SAD #44. Dr. Murphy reminded the Board that a Letter of Intent must be submitted to the DOE by August 31st and added that there are "no divorces in these marriages".

Dr. Murphy spent a few minutes reviewing the time-line for consolidation and the penalties for not consolidating. He noted that if three districts go to referendum and one votes against consolidation the other two districts need to go ahead with consolidation unless the plan addresses this. The packet from Drummond, Woodsum and McaMahon cautions against a merger between very different districts. Costs such as salary increases could rise dramatically after negotiations. The Board will need to choose a Board member to serve on the Planning Committee. An interim step will be a meeting with the Board and Selectmen from the five towns. Together, the board representative and municipal representative will choose a community representative from each town.

4. Ms. Taylor motioned to approve the creation of a School Resource Officer position at the TMS/THS complex for the 2007-2008 school year.

MOTION: Ms. Taylor SECOND: Ms. Largess VOTE:

Prior to a vote the following discussion took place:

Mr. Pew, who was unable to attend the meeting, asked the following comments be included in the record of the meeting.

First off, this proposal is happening much too quickly and there is no input from the community. Policy KA: Community Relations last sentence, first paragraph states, "*the Board must provide the public with information and opportunities leading to participation of the public directly or indirectly in the establishment of programs and policies which are in the public interest.*"

This decision should be voted down not only as an unwise use of funds, but this proposed agreement fails to meet our existing policy KLG: Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities; fourth paragraph states: *The Board authorizes the Superintendent and administration to work with local law enforcement authorities to develop administrative procedures to guide interactions between the schools and law enforcement. Such procedures should safeguard the rights of student and parents, be consistent with Board policies, and minimize disruptions to the instructional program. **These administrative procedures are subject to the approval of the board.***

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The Rule KLG-R Relations with Law enforcement Authorities Administrative Procedure approved and adopted by the board on May 8, 2000 contains nothing about a School Resource Officer Program and would need to be amended and brought before the Board in order for this type of program to be incorporated into our school.

Thank you for listening.

Mr. Davis spoke to the Board and offered his support for the School Resource Officer position. He informed the Board that the Draft Job Description that was included in their packet would be fine tuned in the coming weeks. Mr. Davis stated that he has met with representatives from the student groups in the school and the vast majority of the students support the idea of having an officer in the building during school hours. The students report that the officer's presence makes them feel safe. They also stated that they liked the parental presence in the building that occurred at the end of the last school year. Mr. Davis stated that he wanted to start the school year on the same positive note as the previous year ended. He noted that staff also supported the officer's presence.

Mr. Tornrose also spoke in support of the School Resource Officer position. He stated that he has worked in schools with this position and it was a very positive experience for students and staff. He added that the district has had a good working relationship with Chief Carr and the Bethel Police Department.

Mr. Raymond also voiced his support for the position. He stated that a year ago he did not think such a position was necessary he has since changed his mind. The presence of the officer at the end of the previous school year put a positive end to a negative Spring with the bomb scares. He stated that students have expressed to him that they would not like to see the metal detectors reinstated and that the presence of a School Resource Office would make them feel safe.

Ms. Davis spoke in favor of the position and stated that if the position is put in place it will be very important to clear with students on what the role of the School Resource Officer will be.

Ms. Waite stated that some of her students have children in the TMS/THS and they want to see the School Resource Officer position put in place.

After listening to the Administrator's views, the Board had numerous questions and comments.

The discussion began with the specifics of the position. It would be a school-year only position, 40 hours per week. The salary would be approximately \$12.96 per hour with the contract renewed annually.

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The question was raised about how many students were actually polled about their feelings. Mr. Davis stated that there are 24 satellite groups, each with 13 student members, in the Telstar complex. Mr. Davis meets regularly with one student representative from each group. These representative students have expressed the views of other students in the school. There have also been meetings held with staff and a community meeting following the bomb scares last year with over 100 parents attending. There has been overwhelming support expressed for the position.

The question was raised as to how the SRO would be able to prevent bomb threats. It was conceded that the presence of the officer would probably not prevent a bomb threat but it would provide students with the feeling of safety and security.

A Board member questioned how this position could be justified when teaching positions are being cut. For about the same money as an Ed Tech, the complex would be getting a trained police officer with a background in security and law enforcement. It was noted that the qualifications would be added to the job description.

The issue of what role SAD #44 would play in the evaluation of the SRO's performance was raised. The SRO's performance would be evaluated in conjunction with Chief Carr. The officer would be hired and paid through the Bethel Police Department and SAD #44 would be billed for services. It was noted that the SRO would be governed by our policies and procedures.

A Board member stated that she felt the position should be put in place on a trial basis only. The position should be sent to the appropriate sub-committees for further investigation. Some felt that more was needed from the position than just a presence in the building and the person hired should also be able to teach classes.

It was the general consensus that there are still many legitimate questions that remain unanswered, such as lines of authority and the job description. It was suggested that parents, students and staff be consulted in the formulation of the job description. Policy issues also need to be addressed. Dr. Murphy stated that he would work towards having a complete job description available for the October 22nd meeting. He will also contact MSMA and Principals Association for sample policies.

Following the above discussion, Ms. Taylor withdrew her motion to approve the creation of a School Resource Officer.

Ms. Cross motioned to table the creation of a School Resource Officer position in the THS/TMS complex for the 2007-2008 school year.

MOTION: Ms. Cross SECOND: Ms. Arizzi VOTE:

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Ms. Cross withdrew her motion to table and motioned to hire a temporary police officer for the start of the school year until the position of Resource Officer is approved by the Board with a complete job description completed by the October 22nd Board meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Cross SECOND: Ms. Arizzi VOTE: 13 yes, 3 no
(Mr. Farrington, Mr. Polak, Ms. Brown)

ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 PM

MOTION: Ms. Taylor SECOND: Ms. Largess VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

David w. Murphy, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools