

Salisbury Education Committee
October 4, 2012

Roll Call: D Merwin, K Sheldon, K Ross-Raymond, S Miller, B MacDuffie, Sr, M. Murphy
Absent: P Ballou, H Martin

Visitors: Sign in sheet attached with original summary on file.

Chairperson D. Merwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. S. Miller made a motion to accept the September 6, 2012 minutes. B. MacDuffie seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: Letter for ways to reduce the financial burden on taxpayers while striving to provide a quality education for our children has been sent to the MVSB, Selectman of District Towns, City of Concord (Penacook) and Dept of Education.

New Business: Christine Barry, Assistant Superintendent for MVSD, Tom Burke, Head of Transportation for MVSD, Robin Heins, Business Administrator for MVSD and Sandy Davis, Principal of SES attended the meeting to discuss pupil transportation and IB acceptance.

K. Ross-Raymond asked R. Heins where the District was in looking into cost comparisons of MVSD owned buses vs privatizing pupil transportation as it has been a year since an inquiry had been made regarding this. Ms. Heins said there were several factors involved – a proposal would need to be developed, bus drivers are unionized so there would be legalities needing to be looked into, she has not been directed by the MVSB to look into this and at the annual MVSD it may be needed to ask the voters to appropriate funding for a study by an independent entity. In the last ten years, costs have gone up due to cost of fuel, the way students are transported and labor costs. T. Burke gave an overview of transportation. Transportation is available to approximately 2,800 students on a daily basis. The District has 22 large buses (18 regular and 4 spares), 8 small buses and 7 vans to transport students (buses are purchased via a lease to buy), employs 2 mechanics and 1 full time clerk/dispatcher/driver and 1 part-time afternoon dispatcher. There are 31 full time drivers and most of them have 6 hrs per day contracts with benefits. There is potential for overtime and he tries to keep drivers below 40 hrs. Full time drivers start at 13.53/hr. Salisbury has 3 buses and a typical day for the drivers has them reporting to work at 6 am, doing vehicle checks and making their first pickups for middle and high school students between 6:30 & 6:35 am. The students are dropped off at their respective schools and the drivers return to Salisbury to pickup and drop off the elementary students by 8:50 am. The drivers return to the bus terminal at approximately 9:15 am. They go back out at 2:00 pm for the middle/high students followed by the elementary students at 3:30 pm and they return to the bus terminal at 4:15 pm to end their day. Per State law, the maximum time a student can spend on the bus is 1 hr. D. Merwin asked if buses could be parked in Salisbury to save costs. T. Burke said there could be security issues as well as there may be no savings as someone would need to drive to Salisbury to pickup buses if they are needed for a lease for special

events and if replacement drivers were needed. D. Merwin said in 10 years the school budget has increased by 77% while the town budget increased 43%. He would like to see the transportation budget reduced in the next MVSD budget.

Sandy Davis gave an update on IB. After 4 years of hard work, Salisbury and Webster have received authorization. She also reported Salisbury 4th grade students science NECAP scores were 30% higher than the State average. Forty states including NH have common core standards that are being used here.

David Longnecker said he has seen the letter the Committee sent to the MVSB and felt it was respectful. He is encouraged by the way the committee is now working with the Board. Discussion was started regarding comments Board Chairman M. Hutchins made during his opening remarks at the faculty & staff start of school meeting. It was felt there should not be any discussion as M. Hutchins was not able to be present and no one should be speaking for him.

New Business: R. Heins will follow up with the District attorney regarding driver union legalities on privatization. She also said a response from the Board regarding the letter the Committee sent them is in the works.

S. Miller will draft a questionnaire to Salisbury residents informing them about the Salisbury Education Committee and its goals and asking residents for input. When the questionnaire has been finalized, K. Ross-Raymond will send it to the Salisbury Lifelines.

Research will need to be done with the Department of Education regarding changing the process on how board members are elected to see if this could become a warrant article at the annual meeting.

K Sheldon shared information on Coeur d'Alene, Idaho ending their IB program.

D. Merwin made a motion to adjourn. S. Miller seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 1st at 7:00 pm at the town office building.