

PASQUANEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAU #108 School Board

297 Mayhew Turnpike
Bridgewater, NH 03222

SAU#108 Board meeting January 28, 2025 at 7:10pm Bridgewater Town Hall

Pro-Tem Board members present: Mark Coulson and Erick Piper

Excused Absence: Virginia Parker

Consulting Superintendent: Russell Holden

Consulting Business Administrator: Robin Reinhold

BHG Steering Committee members present: Terry Murphy

BHVD Commissioner present: Terry Murphy

Mr. Piper called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes from the meetings on January 22 were reviewed.
- Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Coulson and seconded by Mr. Piper.
- All in favor

Public Comment

- No members of the public had comments at this time.

Updates

- Mr. Coulson addressed the fact that the warrant is currently being reviewed by legal counsel.
- Mr. Piper added that there are just a couple of warrants being revised.
- Mr. Holden mentioned that Dean is in the process of reviewing our revisions.
- Mr. Murphy stated that the public needs to be aware that this is the creation of a new school district, so there will be a lot of one time warrants to establish fund accounts.
- Mr. Holden added that legal counsel has just finished review of the MOU's with SAU#4 and once we receive the finalized copies, we can have the board sign them at possibly the next meeting. We will also post these online.

New Business

- No items of new business at this time.

Public Comment

Tabitha Jenkins – Why are you kicking out the Alexandria students? Why are you adding an addition?

Mr. Piper answered that SAU#108 isn't kicking anyone out. We will accept students that want to attend BHVS. He also stated that BHVD handles all infrastructure with the school.

Mr. Murphy elaborated on the infrastructure to make it clear that this is not SAU#108 adding on classrooms. BHVD has received a substantial donation of \$500,000 as a challenge grant. We need to raise the remainder of the funds. This addition would be to add the 7th and 8th grades.

Heather Huckins – my taxes increased 25%. Why can't those additional funds be utilized to offset budget as we do not need the capacity as student counts are down.

Mr. Piper - we may have lower counts now. Trends are that student count will increase in the near future. Therefore, BHVD wants to take advantage of the challenge grant they received and build now.

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Mr. Piper added that in addition to not kicking anyone out of the school, the board has also offered to keep the pre-school at BHVS. We have heard talks that they are not only removing pre-school, but also removing other students. Please be aware, this is not our choice.

Tabitha Jenkins-when are we gonna know where & when we can enroll our 8th graders.

Kristen DeCormier-SAU#4 has a texting and email system why don't you use this.,

Jennifer Pinckney-does any of the towns send out any info

David Lloyd – just post on FB requesting emails and everyone will provide them.

Discussion of how to communicate to parents of BHVS, whereas they are currently not part of SAU#108 and we do not have access to names, emails or phone numbers.

Tabitha Jenkins -teachers are all worried and don't know what's going on.

Mr. Piper stated that the superintendent and he have worked with the teacher representatives for over 8 weeks to make a better contract.

Mr. Holden added this board is tasked with the systematic setup of this district. The angst is how to role over all the items into a new system.

David Lloyd – expressed teachers angst the need to keep the teachers at BHVS. He also expressed the need for communication with both teachers and parents.

Mr. Holden expressed that he and Mr. Piper have been asked to speak with all the teachers as a group and that meeting will be scheduled soon. As a new school district we are required to meet what the current school district is offering and we have offered more.

Jennifer Pinckney-Teacher angst is different, we all have angst. It is change; some of us like me-I worked in inner city and Love BHVS all of us have emotion. We are not micro managed and we like this.

Mr. Piper expressed that the concentration was on teachers as we want all of them to stay. We chose to make this first contract a 3yr contract to provide stability.

You have to understand, when the school was built all the retired folks were so happy to bring the school to our community, and the staff has made BHVS what it is. We have brought forward the best contract.

Mr. Holden added we want teachers to come on board to SAU#108 and stay at BHVS.

Zack Gilpatric -Will the teachers contract be voted on.

Mr. Holden-Yes because it's a multiyear agreement and therefore, has to be warrant article.

Tabitha Jenkins-the tuition agreement is for one year agreement can they be kicked out the next year.

Discussion of acceptance in SAU# 48 and the fact that there is a legacy clause so that students will not have to worry once they decide which school to go to.

Kayla Torsey- are we following SAU#4 calendar.

Mr. Holden mentioned that he has worked on a calendar that he will try and align with most of the dates for SAU#4 and SAU#48. He hopes to present it at our next meeting.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Regular weekly meeting February 11, 4:30pm non-public, 6pm public
- Budget hearing scheduled for February 13, at 6pm in The Bridgewater Hall.
- March 11 will be a ballot election held at each town voting facility
- Suggestion to hold an open Q&A session between March 15 and March 22 to address any lingering questions from the community.
- Pasquaney School District annual meeting March 25 at 6pm in the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School gym.

Zack Gilpatric-can we use the school for all the meetings.

We will be working on logistics of the meeting day and place, for future meetings.

Mr. Coulson made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Piper seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:34pm

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