

Joint Board of Education Meeting  
Schroon Lake Central and Keene Central School Districts  
Monday, April 28, 2014, 6:00 pm  
at Yandon-Dillon Education Center, Mineville, NY

Minutes

Attendance:

Dr. Mark Davey	Cynthia Ford-Johnston	Kathy Regan
Dan Shaw	Daniel Mayberry	David Craig
John Haverlick	Joe Pete Wilson	Bruce Murdock
Eric Welch	Diane Tyrrell	Robert Claus
Peter Veverka	Dana Shaughnessy	Mark Sturges
Jennifer Jicha	Cheryl Quinn	

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mrs. Ford-Johnston

The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Welcome and Introductions: Mrs. Ford-Johnston welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Davey. Everyone in the room introduced themselves.

Dr. Mark Davey indicated that he was here, as the District Superintendent, to provide information and not sell nor to give advice or make recommendations. He reviewed articles he provided to each board member for their consideration. He will forward to members links to other information which may be found on the Rural Schools website. There was a shared Superintendent workshop sponsored by Rural Schools held last December and the power-point is available on the website.

Dr. Davey spoke regarding each of the topics:

a). State requirements for building level and district administration

Every school building is required to have a full time principal.

Every school district is required to have a high school principal.

Districts are not required to have a Superintendent of Schools, however, only a Superintendent has the authority to recommend tenure.

The Commissioner can approve an alternative model.

When one person has both roles assigned, that of Superintendent and Principal, that person is eligible for tenure and should be evaluated for that purpose.

#### b). Role of CVES

BOCES can offer a Co-Ser for shared services, assist with hiring and will support the search process for a superintendent search.

The District Superintendent has the authority to approve cooperative agreements.

There is no Co-Ser for sharing a Superintendent but can be for sharing an Assistant Supt., business officials, and other staff positions.

#### c). Shared Services Philosophy

BOCES were established to promote and support sharing cooperatively with the premise being to save money and be cost effective.

Shared employees fall under Article 30A. Agreements for shared Superintendent for districts with fewer than 1000 students may be entered.

#### d). Potential Advantages & Efficiencies

The new Tax Freeze Rebate legislation would be satisfied with a shared superintendent model being implemented.

Increased efficiencies

Curriculum sharing

Cost of memberships/conferences/meetings

Potential for exchange and increased opportunities for students

e). Potential Challenges

MUST have a strong principal in each district.

Legal requirements

Expectations and Goals need to be clear and reasonable

May not save money

Both districts need to understand that the Superintendent will not be available for every event or need at all times. They will have two of everything to attend to: board meetings, sets of contracts, unions, events, etc.

Problem will arise when one district likes the work of the superintendent and the other is not satisfied.

Legacy costs

Evaluations

f). Superintendent searches

This may be a service conducted by the District Superintendent, with the cost being for advertising and logistical costs.

g). Concluding comments

Districts need to enter these discussions and agreements with their eyes wide open.

Legal advice is recommended as the process proceeds.

Open discussion / Questions

Legacy costs should be addressed in contract and between districts from the beginning.

Typically contract is for three years, could be an annual agreement between districts.

Salary range? Look at the salaries of the area and there should be additional consideration for the additional work and responsibility of covering two districts.

Competing messages: mandates reflect an increase responsibility and accountability while the emphasis is to share, consolidate and increase efficiency.

There needs to be a better understanding in the community of the responsibility of each the principal and the superintendent, perhaps a mind-shift is needed.

Is there any data available regarding the increased duties and responsibilities of both positions over the years? Might we get a copy if such is found?

Is there an expectation or an advantage for the two BOE to meet jointly throughout the year, annually or semi-annually? No specific pattern, left up to the boards.

How might dismissal be handled if 2 districts disagree? Both/each district retains their individual authority.

What kind of time frame would be expected for a search and planning? School have planned for months and even years before entering a shared agreement. The time could be less if all parties are ready.

How best to prepare the communities for sharing? Athletics brings anger and push back so one could expect the same for all sharing. Best to be able to talk openly, demonstrate the needs and opportunities and how the changes are best for students and the district.

Are there any guidelines as to the percentage of time the shared superintendent might be expected to serve each district? Such would be determined by the districts involved early on in the decision to share, could be 50/50, 60/40 or whatever meets the needs of the districts involved.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Robert Claus, seconded by Kathy Regan, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Ford-Johnston.

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