

## School Liaison Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday May 10, 2012

Location: Franklin City Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Al Warner, Ed Cogan, George Dzjuna, Keith Lohmann & Paul Trudel.

Committee Members Absent: Scott Clarenbach

Also in Attendance:

From the SAU 18 / Franklin School Board: Karen Grzelak, Kathleen Russo & Bob Lucas

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Co-chair Trudel

I. Members of the community who wished to address the committee were invited to come forth to speak: There were none

II. Approval of the minutes from the April 12, 2012 meeting:

Motion made by Co-chair Trudel to approve the minutes of the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Seconded by George Dzjuna

There were no corrections or suggested revisions to the minutes as written.

Approval of the April 12, 2012 minutes was unanimous.

III. Approval of a fixed meeting schedule:

The question was raised by Co-chair Trudel as to whether or not the 6:30PM start time of the committee meeting was an inconvenience for any of the committee members.

Co-chair Trudel made a motion to approve a fixed meeting schedule whereas future meetings would take place on the second Thursday of each month with a start time of 6:30PM.

The motion was seconded by Al Warner.

Approval of the date and time for all future meetings was unanimous.

Narrative/Synopsis:

Co-chair Trudel opened a discussion by introducing questions that Mayor Merrifield brought forth at the May City Council meeting regarding the school funding presentation that was discussed at the April Liaison Committee Meeting. (Please refer to the April 12, 2012 meeting minutes for copies of the funding presentation.)

## School Liaison Committee Minutes

Specifically, Mayor Merrifield suggested the committee investigate:

- 1, Why the State of New Hampshire utilizes an equalized tax rate when determining city/town funding.  
(Property taxes are based on the local assessed valuation of all taxable property within the town, as of April 1 of each year.  
However, when dealing with property values statewide, these varying local assessment levels between towns create an imbalance. This imbalance between towns must be adjusted in order for a statewide property tax to be proportional. The process to accomplish this is called equalization.)
- 2, The amount of state aid the city receives to fund the police, fire, MSD and other departments.  
(The city receives zero (0) from the state in regards to funding the departments noted above.)

Co-chair Lohmann clarified that it was understood that the city's primary form of revenue was generated through property taxes, further, that the school has two sources of funding, that being the city and the state. However, the main point of the presentation was to demonstrate the proportion the school receives from the city which is demonstrably lower when compared to cities and towns of similar size/population.

Discussion then shifted to other means of informing the public as to when and where School Board meetings will be held.

Currently School Board meeting notices are posted on the SAU website, the post office and the High School.

Additional suggestions included the sign in front of the High School, via e-mail subscription, advertisement in the Three Rivers News and the Regal sign.

Lastly, a concern was raised that there may be an occasional breakdown in communication between the school and city department heads. This was brought about by the inability to gain access to the school budget once the announcement was made that the proposed budget was posted on the SAU website. It was noted that this topic of discussion was not an agenda item and further discussion was tabled.

A motion to adjourn was made by Al Warner.  
Seconded by Ed Cogan

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Lohmann, School Liaison Committee Co-chair

Paul Trudel, School Liaison Committee Co-chair