

Joint Commission of City Council and School Board
Minutes of Meeting held December 2, 2020
Via Zoom Video Conference

Chairman Dumont announced the legal authority to meet remotely according to the Governor's State of Emergency declaration, and the Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM.

Members present: School Board members Matt Hanlon & Steve Potter. City Councilors Martin Dumont and Donald Austin.

Others present: City Manager Bob Belmore, Scott Smith DCM/FD, Asst. Superintendent Lori Lane, Mayor Dana Hilliard, School Board Member Thomas McCallion & Councilor Martin Pepin.

1. Minutes from the October 15, 2020 meeting were motioned for approval by Don Austin seconded by Matt Hanlon. Roll call vote was approved unanimously.

2. Lengthy discussion on moving forward with dealing with the guidance to date as to Rollinsford Sharing in financial support. After advice from the District's Attorney as to the existence and operation of SAU 56, a discussion continued regarding the recommendation to consider creating a special fund for contingency expenses for the School. Mayor Hilliard asked the Ms. Lane if she could send the City Manager a copy of the advice provided by their attorney, she agreed. It was suggested that the School and City management teams meet to discuss alternatives and provide a report to their respective elected bodies.

3. The SYC program was discussed as the federal Grant funding cycle was nearing the end. Commission members expressed their support in continuing this program even if Grant funding was not available moving forward and further suggested financial support from both the School and City in the future. This program will remain as an agenda item through the year. Mayor Hilliard recommended the School Board establish a Task Force (or Ad-Hoc Committee) to explore creative models to propose a plan to keep the Somersworth Youth Connection in operation as it is now an integral part of the Community. School Board Chairman Hanlon agreed. The Mayor also suggested he invite a City Councilor to participate.

4. Student School re-entry was updated by Ms. Lane. The current plan in place is moving forward. Committee consensus was in support of the present plan.

5. A general discussion regarding School winter sports plan was shared including particulars as to the spectators' numbers limitations. Mayor Hilliard expressed some concern with having Police detail Officers in attendance and he suggested the School contact our Police Chief about it.

Motioned made by Councilor Don Austin and seconded by School Board Member Steve Potter to adjourn at 6:40 PM. Vote by roll call was 3 to 1 in favor of adjourning, Hanlon – No.

Respectfully submitted, Councilor Martin Dumont & Manager Belmore