

# School Administrative District No. 53

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**Excellence in Education**

Michael A. Gallagher  
Superintendent of Schools

## Advisory Committee

Minutes

2/9/2010

Members in attendance: R. Downs, B. Basford, J. Laux, D. Fortin, A. Vigue, R. McCarthy, Headmaster Chris Hopkins, and Superintendent Mike Gallagher

Item 1. Calendar Update - Superintendent Gallagher provided a brief explanation about the work completed by Mr. Hopkins and himself. He reported that Mr. Hopkins and he had met again since the last meeting to discuss the MCI calendar in relation to the District calendar. However, before the particulars were provided, a historical view of how calendars have been developed and how and why an MOU was developed a few years ago. Superintendent Gallagher then explained that Mr. Hopkins added a day at the beginning of the MCI calendar and one at the end. This means that two snow/inclement weather days would be built in.

Item 2. Discussion regarding process and schedule for negotiating a successor contract – It was suggested that we review the draft negotiation ground rules. During the review a few suggestions were made to the draft. They included making the length of the meeting one hour, having a designee in the absence of the Board Chair and limiting any caucus time to ten minutes. The revised Ground Rules will be readied for the next Advisory Committee meeting.

We then discussed the process for completing the negotiations. Mr. Hopkins suggested that to simply go through the current contract to make any necessary adjustments and make determinations about whether or not to include MOUs may not be the best method. Mr. Laux indicated that his reading of the contract is that it appears to be a compilation of resolutions to issues that have come up over the years, and pointed out that an MOU is usually written to address particular issues. Mr. Vigue suggested a method that he uses in his business. The method involved creating a list of what would be considered important from each party and then determining how they could be incorporated into a contract. Mrs. Basford indicated that it sounded very much like “interest bargaining” and all in attendance agreed that it sounded like a process that would be used.

Item 3. Update on Consolidation/Reorganization – Superintendent Gallagher reported that a meeting had been set up on February 22, 2010 to meet with the Commissioner of Education that would include area legislators, the district’s attorney, Board Chair Downs and Superintendent Gallagher. At the meeting the request to file a letter of intent to submit an Alternative Plan as a donut hole and not be subject to non-consolidation penalties would be pursued.

Item 4. Other – none

Item 5. Next Agenda – Begin discussions for negotiating a successor contract.

Being no further business the committee adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher