

## Negotiations Meeting

September 19, 2016

**In attendance:** Susan Oliveira, Rose Wenzel, Nancy Ambrose, Beth Adreon, Beth Ekroos, Sheryl Thurber, Mark Koenig, Sue Rakowski, George Gardner, *Jackie Russett, JoAn Canning*

**Audience:** Laurie Childers, Martha Kenfield, Ed Desany

M. Koenig called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

S. Oliveira - We are surprised that we received the agenda and ground rules ahead of the meeting. We have always done this together, teachers and the board in a collaborative way. We were also surprised that we are not conducting negotiations in Executive Session.

M. Koenig - We forwarded this to you as a place to start. We can work on the ground rules and the agenda together. We just wanted to give us a place to begin the conversation. *Vermont Open Meeting Law requires that agendas be made public before meetings.*

The Association distributed their recommended ground rules.

S. Rakowski made a **motion** to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations strategies because premature public knowledge would put the Board at significant disadvantage at 4:50 pm *and invited Superintendent Canning to come into Executive Session*. This was seconded by G. Gardner.

5:10 pm M. Koenig called the meeting back to order.

M. Koenig - Board agrees to the Associations ground rules 1 and 2.

Board wants to keep the 30 hours of negotiations will drop the end date.

Board will also agree to the alternate route of mediated Factfinding and we still need the Association to bring names so we can find agreement.

S. Oliveira - We have serious issues about Factfinding. It is unprofessional to schedule a Factfinder and then to potentially cancel them. We question the VSBA approach on this.

M. Koenig - Scheduling is a preventative measure so we know we can get on the schedule. *It is the decision of the mediators whether to schedule a fact finding mediation that might be canceled.*

Association left to caucus at 5:20 pm.

5:35 pm Association came back into the room. We want to make every effort to reach agreement in 30 hours on all items. We do not agree on the impasse.

Both parties agree that we will exchange proposals next meeting and no new items by the third meeting.

S. Oliveira offered to update the ground rules and send it to the Superintendent in a couple of days.

M. Koenig - Because of the public nature of negotiations we cannot agree to not talk to the press. I won't be **seeking interviews** interviewed but they will have our meeting materials.

5:43 pm Association left to caucus and came back at 5:48 pm.

S. Oliveira - So now let's talk about dates. We offer October 19, 25 and Nov 7<sup>th</sup>

M. Koenig - We wanted to meet next on September 29, Oct 6 and Oct 13<sup>th</sup> and expedite this process. We **offered** wanted an earlier time like after school.

Association caucused at 5:57 pm. Association came back at 6:15 pm.

S. Oliveira - OK we can meet next at Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to 8 pm.

***M. Koenig verified that the next three meetings will be October 13, October 25 and November 7 from 6-8 p.m. at VUHS. Initial proposals will be exchanged on the October 13 meeting and final proposals will be exchanged at the October 25 meeting.***

The agenda should be

Exchange proposals

Ground Rule agreement

Clarification on proposals

Next meeting agenda

M. Koenig adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully,

JoAn Canning, Superintendent of Schools