



**SHEEPSCOT VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #12**  
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2 April 2018

Town of Whitefield Board of Selectmen  
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Charlene Donahue  
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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board:

This is a reply to points raised in the second paragraph of your 20 March letter to the Board of Directors of the Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit and Superintendent Howard Tuttle. We carefully read and considered the second paragraph which forms the basis for our response.

**1 | Failure to provide appropriate private and public venues for discussing continuing issues at the school.** Parent complaints relating to alleged incidents with students have and continue to be heard based on Board *Policy KE*. And, remarks of a general nature are welcomed at public Board meetings if they can be accommodated, based on *Policy BEDH*. Both are attached. Finally, meetings can be scheduled with the Principal, Superintendent and the Chairperson of the Board if other options fail to satisfy parent or guardian needs. The Board is committed to procedures outlined in the appropriate policies and recognizes the sanctity of student data. Sanctioning long and limitless public dialogue may compromise student confidentiality and opens the district to potential legal action, both to be avoided.

**2 | Private meetings with parents are often canceled.** The simple statement is incomplete, minimally lacking a time frame and other basic metrics about meetings that may have been deferred. Further, there is strong inference that cancelled meetings were not rescheduled. It's difficult to comment on the initial statement without having more information to allow a meaningful response.

**3 | A follow-up meeting to the school forum last fall has not been set up.** This is true and has not happened in deference to the work underway by the *Whitefield School Collaborative Problem Solving Project Committee*. That assembly asked that no follow up on forum subjects be scheduled until the group had sufficient time to develop and report out progress. It's expected initial reports will be made in early summer. The district remains committed to participating in and supporting the work while cooperating with the collaborative and the unique process underway. Partnering in the project and RSU 12's commitment is all about the final two sentences in the 20 March letter, "We encourage a more open and community-based approach to solving problems at the Whitefield School. An open approach will help all parties and help bring us back together." That's happening and it has our support!

Regards,

Howard Tuttle, Superintendent  
Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit

F. Gerard Nault, Chairman  
SVRSU Board of Directors

attachments: Policy BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings  
Policy KE – Public Concern and Complaints

cc: Lincoln County News