

**Shaker Regional School District
FINAL Withdrawal Study Committee Meeting Minutes
Canterbury Meeting House
August 22, 2022**

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Randi Johnson, Committee Chairperson; Ruth Mooney, Bob Steenson, Eric Johnson, Tracey Leclair, Rue Toland, Charlie Krautmann; Alice Todd (6:19pm arrival)

Administration: Michael Tursi, Shaker Regional School District Superintendent; Debbie Thompson, Business Administrator

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Randi Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

MEETING MINUTES

Review/Approval of August 8, 2022 public meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Tracey Leclair and seconded by Charlie Krautmann to approve the August 8, 2022 Public Withdrawal Study Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Randi Johnson, Ruth Mooney, and Bob Steenson abstained due to their absence from the meeting.

The next meeting of the Withdrawal Study Committee will be September 12, 2022 at the Canterbury Meeting House. A few committee members stated they may be absent. Alternative methods of attending the meeting were discussed.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

None

BUDGET INFORMATION

SAU80 budget details, as they relate to Canterbury, were included in the informational packet. Superintendent Tursi provided an overview of what they consider a “rough” estimate of a potential budget if Canterbury were to withdraw from SRSD. Debbie Thompson presented reports and provided additional explanations to committee members. Shared positions, such as occupational therapist, speech therapist, etc., were pulled out at the Town of Canterbury’s apportionment/share. The school district’s legal counsel recently advised them to review NH RSA195:26-30. It was their interpretation of the statutes reviewed that all construction costs associated with building renovations or additions to Canterbury Elementary School (while part

of Shaker Regional School District) would be required to be repaid. Debbie Thompson explained to the committee that it was important to keep in mind the cooperative school district currently receives additional discounts due to its combined size for employee benefits (health, life, disability insurance). Another example of a listed expense was the annual school district audit, which was calculated using Canterbury's current 23%. However, it would likely be more than that as Canterbury would be paying the entire cost of their audit.

Rue Toland asked about the expense listed for transportation of homeless students. Explanation was provided, with the reminder to take into consideration that "homeless" also means a family displaced by fire that may be temporarily housed in another community.

Bob Steenson thanked Debbie Thompson and Michael Tursi for their efforts to pull together information for an estimated budget. Debbie also mentioned computer servers, accounting software, etc. which would need to be purchased/contracted if Canterbury were a separate district.

Ruth Mooney asked about the Food Service program. Debbie Thompson explained Canterbury has a full-service kitchen. Canterbury has a low rate of students eligible for free and reduced meals, which means that the government reimbursement rate is minimal.

Tracey Leclair asked about workman's compensation rates and unemployment rates, and Bob Steenson asked a clarifying question. Randi Johnson mentioned there is no charge for snow removal at CES. However, salting and sanding is an expense of the district. Bob Steenson mentioned energy costs and clarified that CES has its own well and septic.

Rue Toland asked about a list of positions required to be filled by statute. Michael Tursi mentioned Superintendent Services that must be provided. Discussion ensued about Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and physical education positions which could potentially be shared with another district or contracted out. Rue asked about contracted services for a superintendent. Mr. Tursi stated NH RSA 195:26-30 may be helpful to review. Rue Toland asked Mr. Tursi if there were lessons learned from his own experiences, because he was a superintendent shared by two school districts in the past. Further, his own town of which he resides has recently withdrawn from a larger school district. His advice was to not underestimate the potential budget.

Bob Steenson suggested that it's important to keep in mind that the cost component and the logistics component of a potential Canterbury withdrawal are separate but equally important.

Ruth Mooney asked about the teachers' union and that Canterbury staff will have to decide if they want to unionize and negotiate a new CBA (collective bargaining agreement). Michael

explained during the year of the withdrawal, if it occurred, there are a lot of logistics that are worked out. Ruth asked clarifying questions about how reduction of force comes into play under the current CBA, due to the withdrawal of Canterbury staff.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Information Gathering Update -

- Winnisquam – Randi Johnson provided information received from the Winnisquam Regional School District.
- Merrimack Valley – No additional information.
- Gilford – No additional information.

Information Consolidation Review –

Contracts and Financials – Bob Steenson and Rue Toland –A review of the Barrington agreement noted that graduation was guaranteed for current high school students. The district has one non-voting member on the school board, which most sending school districts do not have any representation on the receiving district’s board. The agreement also contained a very specific cost calculation for special education services provided to students. Mont Vernon/Amherst–The contract was note as being well-written yet appeared to have certain holes/missing relevant information on important topics.

NEXT STEPS AND OPEN QUESTIONS

Randi Johnson would like to use a consultant to assist with organizing data collected for the required reports that are to be submitted to the NH Department of Education. Eric Johnson suggested the committee request to use the school district legal counsel to obtain more answers to the committee’s questions. Bob Steenson mentioned the need for legal counsel for interpretation of the RSAs.

A motion was made by Rue Toland and seconded by Alice Todd to formally request to use the services of legal counsel in a limited capacity to be available for one meeting to provide information only to the Withdrawal Study Committee. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Rue Toland and seconded by Tracey Leclair to formally request that the school board appropriate funds not to exceed \$10,000 to hire a consultant to advice the Withdrawal Study Committee and assist with the preparation of the reports required by statute. The motion failed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bob Steenson and seconded by Tracey Leclair to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretta Olson-Wilder
School Board Secretary