

**Shaker Regional School District
FINAL Withdrawal Study Committee Meeting Minutes
Canterbury Meeting House
August 8, 2022**

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Eric Johnson, Rue Toland, Tracey Leclair, Alice Todd, Charlie Krautmann

Excused: Randi Johnson, Ruth Mooney, Bob Steenson

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Eric Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:39pm.

MEETING MINUTES

Review/Approval of July 25, 2022 public meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Rue Toland and seconded by Tracey Leclair to approve the July 25, 2022 Public Withdrawal Study Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Charlie Krautmann abstained due to his absence from the meeting.

The next meeting of the Withdrawal Study Committee will be August 22, 2022 at the Canterbury Meeting House.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Information Gathering Update – Updates from Randi Johnson were included in the informational packet.

- Winnisquam Regional – An official request was recently sent to the new superintendent, Dr. Shannon Bartlett.
- Merrimack Valley –Randi Johnson has had discussions with their SAU. The final decision is still pending as to whether or not the district would consider tuitioned-in students from Canterbury.
- Gilford – Gilford School Board is to discuss the request at their next board meeting and get back to Randi Johnson.

Budget Information – Eric Johnson stated Michael Tursi, Shaker Regional School Superintendent, and Debbie Thompson, Business Administrator, will be attending the next committee meeting to present information on the budget as it relates to Canterbury Elementary School. Rue Toland asked questions regarding bus transportation and if monetary information could be obtained from First Student bus company. It was mentioned, however, that First Student may not be the only bus company to review if Canterbury students were to attend a high school in the Concord area, as there may be other options.

Consultant Research – At the suggestion of the NH School Boards Association representative who attended the last committee meeting, consultants that may be able to assist the committee on required tasks were contacted. Three consultants responded so far. A summary of their experiences and average costs were included by Randi Johnson in the informational packet. The committee discussed the information provided.

Rue Toland asked if a formal request has been made to the school board for funds to pay a consultant to assist the committee in navigating this process. Eric explained that there is a school board meeting tomorrow night, and he will be providing the Board with a committee update. Rue also asked Eric if the committee could formally request funds for the ability to consult with legal counsel as well. Charlie Krautmann mentioned that we were still in the information gathering phase, and once we are in a better position, the committee could send out an RFP (request for proposal) for consultant assistance. Tracey Leclair voiced her concern about the timeline and deadlines.

Information Consolidation Review -

Academic (Eric Johnson and Tracey Leclair) – Eric Johnson and Tracey Leclair provided information that was included in the packet to the committee. All schools reviewed had graduation requirements. Eric explained foundational, college and career level, and the honors level classes.

Tracey Leclair mentioned that Concord had a lot of AP science classes. Language offerings at Merrimack Valley were impressive. All schools reviewed offered Running Start program classes. All had classes at a career technical center available. Concord High School allowed credit toward a student's physical education requirement for athletes participating in school sports.

Student enrollment numbers to keep in mind:

Belmont 360; Bow 660; Laconia 550; Concord 1500; Merrimack Valley 850; Gilford 490.

Business Education courses differed by school. Concord and Merrimack Valley offered more life studies such as creative cooking, personal relationships, personal finance, etc. Rue Toland mentioned the art offerings at Concord High School; with an understanding that it is a much larger school. Eric Johnson mentioned the additional social studies offerings that Laconia High School had.

There was discussion regarding staffing and providing options and the costs associated with offering more clubs and courses.

Extracurricular (Alice Todd and Charlie Krautmann) – Charlie Krautmann and Alice Todd provided a recap of extracurricular offerings at various schools. Middle school was more challenging to gather information and will be difficult to assess.

High School sports offerings: Belmont 16; Laconia 19; Bow 25; and Concord 32. Belmont does not offer Field Hockey. Belmont offers the least amount of sports out of the three smaller schools.

Co-curriculars: Belmont 18; Laconia 20; Bow 29; Concord 56. Laconia and Belmont were similar when comparing on a per student basis.

Contracts and Financials (Bob Steenson and Rue Toland) –Rue Toland provided an update. There appears to be no standard contracts; lots of variables. The following are thoughts from committee members after review of several current agreements between school districts. It's important to include whether or not there is a cap on enrollment by the receiving school. Contracts should include specifics on how special education will be handled. The term length of the contract should be clear. Questions raised that should be addressed in a contract would be to detail what happens with Canterbury students currently enrolled at Belmont High School. Capital expenses and what Canterbury's responsibility is toward those expenses must be included. Transportation to and from school does not seem to be always covered; however, transportation for athletics and career technical schools is covered. Details of student discipline, how it is handled and how much information is shared, seems negotiable between the parties. Access to student data by the sending town is important to include in the contract. There can be an overall agreement and then MOUs (memorandum of understanding). Some contracts stipulated whether or not foreign exchange students were allowed from a sending town.

On a separate note, Rue Toland asked if there was anything stopping the current Shaker Regional School District (Belmont and Canterbury) from offering families a school voucher program. Committee members were unclear of the answer.

Other considerations on contracts between school districts is on the calculation of cost per student per year, which can have a cap on the % that fee can increase, year over year. If there is no cap on the increase, how much input to this calculation would the sending town have anyway, year to year.

Charlie Krautmann mentioned SAU23. He talked to a principal in that district that explained that the district had its own high school, however, still offered school choice. Some parents sent their students to Plymouth Regional High School and paid the difference in tuition costs.

Tracey Leclair asked about transportation costs, and if there was a contract that included specific information. Rue Toland mentioned Barrington within Oyster River School District. This same agreement also included specific information for special education students. Rue also mentioned another contract that addressed special education in that routine services were covered and additional services were the responsibility of the sending district.

NEXT STEPS AND OPEN QUESTIONS

Tracey Leclair had the question posed to her by a Belmont resident asking if the Withdrawal Study Committee members were all voting members? This arose due to the make-up of the committee was not as initially outlined as two Belmont residents and two Canterbury residents. Discussion ensued on what the related RSAs required.

Rue Toland requested that the committee be provided with budget information from the SAU staff prior to the August 22 meeting to allow for more thoughtful questions.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alice Todd and seconded by Rue Toland to adjourn the meeting at 7:14pm. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretta Olson-Wilder
School Board Secretary