

**Shaker Regional School District  
Withdrawal Study Committee Dissolution Statement**

The Withdrawal Study Committee held its final meeting on October 24th 2022. The committee gathered a lot of information and put in many hours in an attempt to produce a comprehensive report to determine if it was feasible for the Town of Canterbury to withdraw from the Shaker Regional School District.

The committee learned that other options are available in neighboring districts; however, putting together a feasible plan to take advantage of those options requires more resources than the committee has received. It was determined that the committee needed additional funding to complete the feasibility study.

In order to get the additional funding to get the guidance that the committee needed, a new warrant article would need to be presented to the Town of Canterbury at the March 2023 Town Meeting with funding attached to it. The committee had a November 5th deadline to submit their findings to the State Board of Education and received guidance to ask for a one year extension to allow the Town of Canterbury the opportunity to secure the funding to finish the report if the town so desired.

On November 3rd 2022, the committee submitted the Canterbury Withdrawal Feasibility Initial Study Report to the NH State Board of Education which included a request for a one year extension.

On January 12th 2023, the NH State Board of Education denied the extension stating that it did not have the authority to grant such a request. As a result, the Withdrawal Study Committee was dissolved.

Attached are the meeting minutes from the October 24th 2022 Committee meeting and the Canterbury Withdrawal Feasibility Initial Study Report for public record.

**Shaker Regional School District  
DRAFT Withdrawal Study Committee Meeting Minutes  
Canterbury Meeting House  
October 24, 2022**

IN ATTENDANCE

**Committee Members:** Randi Johnson, Committee Chairperson; Ruth Mooney, Tracey Leclair, Charlie Krautmann, Alice Todd, Rue Toland (arrived at 5:40)

**Excused:** Bob Steenson, Eric Johnson

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Randi Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

MEETING MINUTES

Review/Approval of October 10, 2022 public meeting minutes.

***A motion was made by Ruth Mooney and seconded by Tracey Leclair to approve the October 10, 2022 Public Withdrawal Study Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.***

The next meeting of the Withdrawal Study Committee will be determined at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Danielle Krautmann, Canterbury resident, was in attendance. She asked Randi Johnson where and when the report the committee is preparing will be available to the public. Randi stated the notice of availability will be communicated to Canterbury residents using electronic and written communications. The report will be included in the Withdrawal Study Committee information posted on the Shaker Regional School District website at [www.sau80.org](http://www.sau80.org).

INITIAL REPORT AND EXTENSION REQUEST

Randi Johnson had a conversation with a representative of the State of NH Department of Education regarding an extension request. The representative stated that the committee's extension request should be for one full year.

Randi Johnson and Charlie Krautmann presented a draft of the report required to be sent to the State of NH Department of Education. The proposed sections of the report are as follows:

- *Opening Statement* - Changes were suggested by committee members to the opening paragraph to be more concise in the committee's purpose.

- *Introduction* - Changes were made to the draft to ensure information contained in the report was factual vs. hearsay.
- *Findings*
  - *Withdrawal Plan*
  - *Town of Canterbury Estimated Financial Costs* - Charlie Krautmann provided additional information obtained from area private schools. There are currently 23 Canterbury students/residents currently enrolled in area private schools in Kindergarten thru Grade 12. Clarifications were discussed to the average daily membership (ADM) and equalized valuation (EV) sections.
  - *Estimated Operating Cost of Canterbury Elementary*
  - *Disposition of Property* - More information will be included for long-term debt commitments.
  - *Tuition Comparison*
  - *Academic Comparison* - Randi Johnson will insert the academic information provided by Tracey Leclair and Eric Johnson.
  - *Extracurricular Comparison* - Additional clarifying information was discussed to ensure accuracy of sports. Charlie Krautmann pointed out that clubs seemed to vary from year-to-year dependent on student interest and advisor availability.
  - *Tuition Agreement Comparison*
  - *SAU Operations, Transportation, & Legacy Costs*
  - *Education Plan for Both Towns*
- *Conclusions*

#### NEXT STEPS

Randi Johnson and Charlie Krautmann will make revisions to the report; allow for committee member review; and submit the final version to the State of NH Department of Education.

Randi Johnson will suggest to administration and the school board that they provide various ways for Canterbury residents to voice their concerns as to why this withdrawal study was requested in the first place.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alice Todd and seconded by Tracey Leclair to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretta Olson-Wilder  
School Board Secretary

# Canterbury Withdrawal Feasibility Initial Study Report

November 2022

## **Committee Members:**

Randi Johnson – Committee Chairperson & Shaker Regional School Board Member

Eric Johnson – Shaker Regional School Board Member

Ruth Mooney – Belmont Selectboard

Bob Steenson – Canterbury Selectboard

Charlie Krautmann – Canterbury Resident

Tracey Leclair – Belmont Resident

Alice Todd – Canterbury Resident

Rue Toland – Canterbury Resident

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Many families in the Town of Canterbury seek options to improve educational opportunities for children in Canterbury, as demonstrated by the passage of a petitioned Warrant Article (Article 15) in March 2022 to create a committee to explore options for middle and high school beyond what is currently offered by Belmont Middle and High Schools. The committee quickly learned that other options are available in neighboring districts; however, putting together a feasible plan to take advantage of those options requires more resources than the committee has received. It was determined that the committee needs funding to complete the feasibility study. Specifically, legal counsel and an experienced consultant to assist the committee in assessing the suitability of a plan that would allow Canterbury to provide its children with the educational and extra-curricular opportunities they seek.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Shaker Regional School District (SRSD - SAU80) was formed on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1971 and serves the towns of Belmont and Canterbury. Residents of Canterbury have questioned withdrawing from SAU80 for many years for a variety of reasons. The last documented Feasibility Study was completed in 1981. Another (undocumented) investigation occurred in the mid-90's. As best the committee can tell, Canterbury residents have repeatedly sought withdrawal from the District for the following reasons:

1. Geography (parents' travel) – the parents of many Canterbury school children work south of Canterbury, often in Concord or Manchester, making it a challenge to travel to Belmont to attend school events or pick up a sick child during the work day;
2. Geography (bus routes) – students in many parts of Canterbury need to get on the bus for both middle and high school at 6:10am (Bus 11). Attending other (closer) area high schools could significantly reduce the time students spend on the bus; and
3. Offerings and Choice– Belmont High School (BHS) lacks the breadth of extracurricular activities, Advanced Placement courses, and other advanced coursework found in other local districts. Families in Canterbury would like to have options for school choice.

In March 2022 the Town of Canterbury voted in favor of Article 15 to instruct the Shaker Regional School District School Board to form a committee (herein referred to as “the Committee”) to initiate a review of the feasibility and suitability of Canterbury’s withdrawal from SAU80 in an effort to provide additional options for educational, athletic and extracurricular activities. When considering available options, the Committee included Belmont High School (BHS) and Belmont Middle School (BMS) among the schools it researched.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Legal Requirements for Withdrawal Plan:**

NH RSA Chapter 195 governs Cooperative School Districts such as the Shaker Regional School District. The Committee has not had the assistance of its own legal counsel and has instead had to rely on general information provided by Will Phillips, Staff Attorney at the NH School Board Association to interpret the applicable state statutes. The existing statutes governing withdrawal from a cooperative district are often ambiguous when applied to one pre-existing district's efforts to withdraw from a two-district cooperative. The Committee strongly believes that it requires legal counsel to appropriately navigate the requirements of applicable law.

Cooperative School Districts include multi-district cooperatives (i.e., cooperatives made up of three or more districts) and cooperatives made up of two districts. The Committee learned that while withdrawal of one district from a multi-district cooperative allows the cooperative district to remain intact, withdrawal of one pre-existing district from a two-district cooperative causes dissolution of the cooperative. This raises the question of whether both pre-existing districts effectively withdraw if one pre-existing district votes in favor of withdrawal, imposing on each pre-existing district the obligations of a withdrawing district under the statutes. Alternately, does the second pre-existing district get a windfall?

For example, NH RSA:195-28 requires a withdrawing district to pay to the cooperative district the amount of capital improvement costs funded by the non-withdrawing district as a condition of withdrawal from the cooperative. It is not clear how this provision applies in the case of a two-town cooperative district where the cooperative district ceases to exist upon withdrawal. Specifically, if Canterbury as a withdrawing district must repay capital improvement costs in order to withdraw Canterbury Elementary School from the cooperative district, where do those funds go? Is the dissolving district required to distribute the funds back to taxpayers? The statute is unclear on this point.

In its study, the Committee asked several questions and received the following answers from the NH School Board Association counsel:

- **Is Canterbury its own school district as defined in RSA 194:1?** No. When the cooperative school district was formed in 1971, the Canterbury district dissolved and Canterbury became part of the Shaker Regional School District.
- **Can Canterbury form a separate school board governing Canterbury Elementary School?** No. Canterbury can only form its own school board if it withdraws from Shaker Regional School District and becomes its own school district.
- **Do both towns have a vote if a dissolution were recommended?** Yes and no. NH RSA 195:29 governs the process for voting on a withdrawal plan. First, the NH Board of Education must approve a withdrawal plan submitted by the Committee. Following approval by the Board of Education, the district School Board must publish notice of the withdrawal plan and call a regular or special meeting to approve the withdrawal plan. Both Shaker Regional School District (comprising Canterbury and Belmont) and then the Town of Canterbury must vote to approve the withdrawal plan. If a majority of voters in the Town of Canterbury vote in favor of withdrawal

but a majority of voters in the cooperative District vote against withdrawal, then the withdrawing district (i.e., Canterbury, presumably through the Committee, but the statute is not clear on this point) have the right to appeal to the Board of Education. The Board of Education must then investigate and issue its own report and recommendations, which may require a special meeting (of what body, the statute does not make clear) for a vote of reconsideration.

**Town of Canterbury Estimated Financial Costs:**

In order to determine the estimated financial costs if Canterbury were to withdraw from the Shaker Regional School district, the Committee considered the following:

As a first step, the Committee identified how many students from Canterbury and Belmont attend each of the SAU80 schools. As of May 18, 2022:

- Belmont High School (BHS) = 360 students (50 Canterbury residents, 13.9% of student body)
- Belmont Middle School (BMS) = 358 students (55 Canterbury residents, 15.4% of student body)
- Belmont Elementary School (BES) = 350 total students (9 Canterbury residents, 2.6% of student body)
- Canterbury Elementary School (CES) = 106 total students (98 Canterbury residents 92.5% of student body)

A total of 212 (18%) students from Canterbury currently attend Shaker Regional School District schools. It should be noted that the 2020 Census Bureau reported that NH’s homeschooling numbers jumped from 3.4% to 6.3%, with SAU80 records showing 25 homeschool students (9.5%) in Canterbury as of May 18, 2022. The Committee was informed of 23 students (8.7% of Canterbury students) attending Shaker Road School and Bishop Brady in grades K-12. Additionally, Derryfield, Proctor and Tilton reported to have no Canterbury students currently. Sant Bani wasn’t willing to provide numbers. The Committee was unable to locate any additional data on the number of Canterbury students who attend other private or charter schools; however, anecdotally, the Committee is aware that at least 4 Canterbury students attend out of district public schools in the area.

	# of Canterbury Students	Percent (%)
Shaker Regional (In-district)	212	80.3
Private Day Schools	At least 23	8.7
Homeschool	25	9.5
Public (Out of District)	At least 4	1.5
Total	264	100.0

SAU80 apportions the capital and operating expenses payable each year in accordance with a formula based on 50% of the average daily membership (ADM) of the pupils residing in each member town during the second preceding fiscal year and 50% of the equalized valuation (EV) of each town as determined by the Department of Revenue administration. The 1981 versus 2021/2022 ADM is:

TOWN	1981 Study ADM	1981 % of Students Enrolled	21/22 ADM	21/22 % of Students Enrolled
Belmont	711.0	74.1	1027.9	81.9
Canterbury	248.6	25.9	226.4	18.1
Total	959.6	100	1,254.3	100

The 1981 versus 2021/2022 EV is:

TOWN	1981 EV (\$)	1981 Percent (%)	21/22 EV (\$)	21/22 Percent (%)
Belmont	62,075,003	71.17	830,378,752	71.92
Canterbury	23,144,843	28.83	324,226,271	28.08
Total	87,219,846	100	1,154,605,023	100

Taking the average of ADM and EV, the capital and operating expenses of each town equal (1981/current):

TOWN	1981 Apportionment (%)	21/22 Apportionment (%)
Belmont	72.6	76.9
Canterbury	27.4	23.1
Total	100	100

Based on the 2021 Annual Town Report for Canterbury the School Tax raised \$4,581,062.00 at a rate of \$11.74 per \$1,000 property assessment value.

**Estimated Operating Costs of Canterbury Elementary:**

At the Committee's request, SAU80 created a preliminary budget for the estimated operating cost of CES totalling \$2,523,016.12 with the following items of note:

- Using the 2021-2022 Budget and the 2021-2022 Expended amounts
- If costs were not Canterbury specific in the 2021-2022 Budget or 2021-2022 Expended amounts they typically used the 5-year Apportionment average, which is 23.81318%.
- Some of the items were not conducive to apportioning. For example, School Board Dues, Audit, Superintendent Dues. Dues and audits are typically a set rate.

- Costs that are Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) specific (i.e., Longevity and Severance) were not included.
- Services that are considered District-Wide (Superintendent, Director of Curriculum, Special Education, Business Office) were apportioned based on the 23.81318%.

**Disposition of Property:**

RSA 195:28 addresses the disposition of property if a pre-existing district like Canterbury withdraws from a cooperative school district. Effectively, the resolution of existing debts, bonds, leases, capital improvements and any other assets must be settled in a withdrawal. When asked by the Committee for capital improvement expenses that would need to be addressed under RSA 195:28, SAU80’s business administrator stated that CES capital improvement costs total \$1,623,908.61, of which Canterbury had previously paid \$374,543.15 (23%), resulting in a suggested buyout amount of \$1,249,365.46.

SAU80 also quoted existing long-term debt in the aggregate amount of \$1,175,142.18, of which Canterbury would have a suggested buyout amount of \$271,038.32 (23%) in a withdrawal. It was noted the school district currently has no bonded debt.

**Tuition Comparison:**

The Committee contacted the following school districts inquiring if they would be willing to take in Canterbury students in grades 6-12. It should be noted that in their initial inquiries to these outside districts the Committee explained that they are looking at options for Canterbury based on the wording of the warrant article. At the time of this report, the Committee has not received a definitive answer from Merrimack Valley but will continue to approach them due to their close proximity to Canterbury. The following districts stated that they would be open to accepting Canterbury students and provided their Programs of Studies, Extracurricular Activities and estimated Tuition Rates for this year:

High School	Belmont*	Bow**	Concord	Laconia	Winnisquam
Tuition Cost/yr	\$18,426	\$17,261	\$15,552	\$18,331	\$16,876
# of Students	360	624	1,486	600	410
Middle School	Belmont	Bow	Concord	Laconia	Winnisquam
Tuition Cost/yr	\$18,475	\$13,196	\$14,990	\$16,242	\$18,491

\*As presented by SAU80 Superintendent as a tuition for Canterbury students for 2021/2022 with 102 Canterbury students (ADM) at BHS and BMS, an aggregate cost of \$1,786,083.24 excluding transportation.

\*\*Bow indicated that it could only accept a limited number of Canterbury students in a given year. No other school districts contacted by the Committee indicated any such capacity limitation.

**High School Academic Comparison:**

	Belmont	Bow	Laconia	Concord	Winnisquam
Overview	Belmont High School (enrollment approximately 360) Honors = * Running Start/dual enrollment in area community colleges = **; Honors and dual enrollment options = ***, Advanced Placement classes = AP	Bow High School (enrollment approximately 660) Honors = * Running Start/dual enrollment in area community colleges = **; Honors and dual enrollment options = ***, Advanced Placement classes = AP	Laconia High School (enrollment approximately 550) Honors = * Running Start/dual enrollment in area community colleges = **; Honors and dual enrollment options = ***, Advanced Placement classes = AP	Concord High School (enrollment approximately 1520) Honors = * Running Start/dual enrollment in area community colleges = **; Honors and dual enrollment options = ***, Advanced Placement classes = AP	Winnisquam Regional High School (enrollment approximately 447) Honors = * Running Start/dual enrollment in area community colleges = **; Honors and dual enrollment options = ***, Advanced Placement classes = AP
Diploma Options	32 credit, 26 credit, 20 credit	24 credits	30 credits, 26 credits	20 credit	24 Credits
Math Options	14 offerings: 8 honors (3 honors option only); 1 AP; 2 Running Start: Math electives beyond Algebra I & II, Geometry: Advanced Math, Pre-Calc, Calculus, AP Calculus, Foundations of College Math, Quantitative Reasoning**, Statistics**STEM.	13 offerings: 3 AP: Calculus I & II, Statistics. Classes beyond required Algebra I (or Foundations of Math 1-4), Integrated geometry & Algebra II money matters or personal finance: pre-calculus, discrete math, finite math, quantitative reasoning, AP Calculus I & II, AP Statistics.	17 offerings: 2 AP, 5 honors. Classes beyond required Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II / Foundational classes: Statistics & Probability, PreCalculus(H), Advanced Math Concepts, Math Applications, Calculus (H), AP Calculus, AP Statistics, Vocational Math.	18 offerings; Advanced Algebra II, Advanced Geometry, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, Advanced Pre-Caculus,Algebra I, Algebra II, Calculus, Discrete Mathematics,, Computer Science & Math, Geometry, Pre-Calculus I, pre-Calculus II, Probability & Statistics, Quantitative Reasoning, Statistical	14 Offerings: 5 Honors: Geometry*, Algebra 2*, Pre-Calculus*, Calculus*, Statistics**

				Algebra, The Statistics of Sports, STEM Algebra-Physics	
English Options	12 offerings: 3 honors;1 AP. Courses beyond required English classes: AP English Literature **, Yearbook, Art of Writing, Young Adult Literature.	<b>Humanities</b> 27 offerings: American Dream (9th*), America in the World (10th*), Beyond the Wall 1989 - Present (11th*), Senior Seminar/Summer (12th*), AP English Lit & Comp, AP English Language & Comp, College Composition**, Public Presentation**, Intro Writing, Art & Writing, Creative Writing, Film making, Mythology, Film Critique, Poetry Workshop, Page to Stage, Adventures in Writing: the Novel, Fantastic Words, Dystopian Tradition, Wicked Good Literature, Graphic Novels, Short Story and its Writer, Literature in the modern world, Gender Studies, Book It (summer), Pursuing	18 offerings: 1 AP, 5 honors. * English 9, *English 10, Foundations 11, American Literature, College Composition (H), Creative Writing (H), Journalism, Speech & Debate, Media Literacy, Foundations 12, Senior Seminar, AP Literature & Composition, Surviving the Apocalypse.	19 offerings: AP English Lit & Comp, Advanced writing - College Comp, Advanced writing - Creative writing, English 9-11, Film Study, Journalism, Myths Epics & More, The Novel Crime & Mystery, The Novel Literature of Survival, The Novel Science Fiction & Fantasy, Poetry, Public Speaking, Reading, Sports Literature, Theater Studies, The Write Stuff, World Literature	14 Offerings: 2 AP: AP Language & Composition, AP Literature & Composition, 3 Honors: English 9*, English 10*, College Composition**

		Happiness (summer).			
<b>Science Options</b>	14 Offerings: 10 honors; 2 AP. Electives offered beyond required physical science, biology*, chemistry*, physics*, Anatomy & Physiology*, Astronomy, Atmospheric Science, Botany & Zoology*, Earth Science***, Field Studies in Earth, Ecological & Environmental Sciences*, AP Biology, AP Chemistry	17 Offerings: Physical science, Life science, chemistry, AP chem, Physics, AP Physics, AP Bio, Human Anatomy & Physiology, Environmental Science, Biotech I & II, Earth & Space Science, Forensic science, Robotics I, II, III, Lab.	18 Offerings: 1 AP, 6 honors. Physical Science*, Biology*, Biology (H), Chemistry, Chemistry (H), AP Chemistry, Integrated Science, Anatomy & Physiology, Anatomy & Physiology (H), Earth & Space Science, Forensic Science, Physics (H), Physics II (H), Environmental Science, Astronomy, Biomedical Technology, Surviving the Apocalypse.	22 Offerings: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics I, AP Physics II, AP Psychology, Anatomy & Physiology, Animal Behavior, Astronomy, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, Chemistry of Life, Chemistry of What We Eat, Earth & Space Science, Human Psychology, Next Generation Science I & II, NH Ecology, Physics I & II, Science of Survival, Sustainability	20 Offerings: 2 AP: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, 4 Honors: Earth & Space Science*, Biology*, Physics*, Chemistry*, Environmental Science**
<b>Social Studies</b>	14 Offerings: 4 honors; 2 AP. Civics & Government*, Geography*, US History*, AP US History, World History*, AP World History, Americana, Intro to Psychology, Sociology, Street law.	20 Offerings: AP US History, AP European History, AP Psych, Psychology, Child development, Law & Ethics, Revolutions, Topics in American history, Topics in world history, Topics in history WWI, Topics in history WWII, Topics in history Cold	16 Offerings: 3AP, 5 honors. World Geography & Cultures*, World Geography & Cultures (H), Foundations of US History*, Technology in America, Evolutions & Revolutions, Contemporary Issues (H option), Movies Make History, Sport	17 Offerings: American Popular Culture, AP Economics, AP European History, AP US History, Big History, Civics, Economics, Geography & Cultures of the World I & II, History or Hollywood, Social Movements: Power to the People, Sociology,	13 Offerings: 1 AP: AP US History, 6 Honors: World History & Geography*, US/NH Government & Citizenship*, American Economy*, US/NH History & Government**, Psychology**, Sociology**

		War, Race, culture and power, Topics in history vs Hollywood, Sociology & civilization, Hands on history WWII (summer), NH History (summer), Beyond the Wall 1989 - Present	in America, Social Justice (H), Money Matters, Genocide Studies (H option), Psychology, AP/H US History, AP World History, AP Government & Politics.	Street Law, The Historically Excluded: American Women, US History, War and Peace - World War II, World History: Ancient Civilizations, World History: Road to the Modern World	
<b>Technology</b>	11 offerings: 3 honors and 2 running start: Courses offered: modern computer science, computer programming, computer graphics I** & II**, advanced computer graphics, advanced computer graphics visual*, advanced video and effects*, advanced digital photography*, robotics, engineering, aviation.	Computer Courses 8 Offerings: computer applications, advanced computer applications, managing business finances with quickbooks and excel, intro to computer science, intro to game design and app development, Internship, Genius Bar, Advanced Computer Science Principles AP. Engineering: Intro to Engineering Design, Robotics I, II, III, Lab, Engineering Principles I** & II**.	<b>Art &amp; Technology</b> 13 offerings: Exploring Art, Evolution of Crafts, Drawing, Painting, 3D Forms, Exploring Digital Art, Digital Drawing & Illustration, Digital Imaging & Design, Robotics, Characters & Comics, Computer Aided Design, Fundamentals of Digital Security, Yearbook.	3 offerings: Computer Science I, Computer Science II & Intro to Mobile Applications (AP option), Student Help Desk	6 Offerings: STEM Explorations, Robotics, Robotics II, STEM 3-D Design, Game Design, App Design
<b>World Languages</b>	7 offerings: 4 running starts;	14 offerings: French 1-5,	10 offerings: 6 Honors French	21 offerings: French 1-5,	9 Offerings: 5 Honors:

	3 honors. French 1-5 and Spanish 1-5.	Spanish 1-5, Latin 1-4	1-5; Spanish 1-5	Spanish 1-5, German 1-5, Latin 1-5, GAPP (German-American Partnership Program (Study Abroad-not always offered)	French 3*,4* & 5*, Spanish ¾ Culture & Spanish ¾ Language*
<b>Business Ed</b>	3 offerings: Personal economics, principles of business I & II	14 offerings: Microsoft Certification program, Managing Business Finances with Quickbooks and excel, Business**, Marketing**, Money Matters (or online)*, Personal Finance & Investing***; Personal Finance & Investing**, Internship, Economics, International Business, Investing in Your Future, Accounting**, Macroeconomics AP.	N/A	7 offerings: Accounting I, Accounting II, Business Law, Computerized Business Applications, E-Commerce, Entrepreneurship, Money Management	6 Offerings: Intro to Business, Principles of Marketing, Intro to Personal Financial Management, Intro to Computer Applications & Concepts, Desktop Publishing, Intro to Computer Programming
<b>Music</b>	5 offerings, 1 honors Classes offered: Concert band*, Chorus, Dance fitness, Intro to guitar, Intro to piano, The Arts and Culture	Performing Arts 14 offerings: Concert band, Concert choir, String orchestra, Piano, Guitar, second chance Band, Music Theory, History of Rock & Roll, Flying Falcon Records, Movement &	4 offerings. Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir.	12 offerings: AP Music Theory, Chamber Singers, Color Guard, Concert Choir, Contemporary Performance, Guitar I, Guitar II, High School Band, History of Jazz & Rock, Jazz Ensemble,	8 Offerings: Concert Band, Concert Choir, Music Theory & Adv Music Theory, Music & Cinema, Music Appreciation Radio & Broadcasting I & II, Music Appreciation: History of American

		Dance, Jazz Ensemble, Unified Music, Select Choir, Page to Stage.		Music Theory, String Orchestra	Rock
<b>Art</b>	5 Offerings, 1 honors, 1 AP: Drawing, Painting, Sculpture & design, Advanced drawing*, AP Studio Art	Visual Arts 8 offerings: Drawing & Painting, Pottery, Metalsmithing, Sculpture, Photography, Graphic Design, Modern Art, Advanced Art.	<b>Art &amp; Technology</b> 13 offerings: Exploring Art, Evolution of Crafts, Drawing, Painting, 3D Forms, Exploring Digital Art, Digital Drawing & Illustration, Digital Imaging & Design, Robotics, Characters & Comics, Computer Aided Design, Fundamentals of Digital Security, Yearbook.	18 offerings: Color & Design, Intro to Digital Art & Design, Ceramics I & II, House & Interior Design, Drawing & Painting I&II, Photography I&II, Metalsmithing & Jewelry I&II, Sculpture, Advanced Art I&II, Theater & Film Production and Design I&II, Graphic Design and Creative Media I&II	8 Offerings: Intro to Art, 2D Design, 3D Design, Adv Studio Arts, Interior Design, Digital Painting, Intro to Digital Photography & Photo Editing
<b>Life Studies</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	7 offerings: Planning for Life & Career, Intro to Cooking, Creative Cooking, Peer-to-peer, Child Development, Independent Living, Personal Relationships	5 Offerings: Sewing I & II, Child Development & Growth, Foods 1 & 2
<b>Technology Education &amp; Industrial Arts</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 offerings: Architectural Drawing, Drafting I & II, Intro to Engineering, Intro to Woodworking	N/A

<p><b>Health/PE</b></p>	<p>3 offerings: Health, Food &amp; Nutrition, PE</p>	<p>BEST courses (integrated health and PE program) 11 classes: BEST 9*, BEST 10*, PE Activities 1, PE Activities 2, Nutrition, Yoga, Intro to Resistance Training, Advanced Strength Training, Unified PE, Intro to Sports Management, Healthy Cooking. <b>Family Consumer Science 6</b> offerings: Intro to Foods, Healthy Cooking, Creative Cooking, International Foods, Interior Design, Child Development.</p>	<p>5 offerings. Wellness, PE, Weight Training, Exercise &amp; Nutrition, Advanced Health</p>	<p>13 offerings: Care &amp; Prevention, CPR &amp; First aid, Dance, PE Leader, Rec Activities, Self-Defense for Women, Strength &amp; Fitness Training, Team Sports, World Games, Yoga, CHS Sports, PE (ELO), R.O.P.E.</p>	<p>8 Offerings: PE 9 &amp; 10-12, Adventure Activities, Lifetime Activities, Team Sports, Weight Training, Health, Sports Nutrition &amp; Exercise Science</p>
<p><b>CTC/Ag</b></p>	<p>Huot Center in Laconia and Winnisquam Ag Program</p>	<p>Classes at Concord Regional Technical Center (CRTC)</p>	<p>Huot Center in Laconia</p>	<p>Concord Regional Technical Center (CRTC)</p>	<p>Huot Center in Laconia &amp; Winnisquam Ag Program: 10 Offerings: Companion Animal Science, Animal &amp; Plant Science I &amp; II, Natural Resources I &amp; II, Advanced Topics in Agriculture, Floriculture, Vet Science, Outdoor Power Equipment, Science of Food</p>

<b>AP/Running Start/ Dual Enrollment</b>	Honors = * Running Start/dual enrollment in area community colleges = **; Honors and dual enrollment options = ***, Advanced Placement classes = AP	N/A	N/A	7 Running Start classes, Classes at SNHU, CRTC; 14 AP Classes	N/A
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	ELOs	ELOs; Honors options in all classes not AP	ELOs, All core classes offer foundational, college & career readiness and honors levels.	English Language Learners (ELL) 13 offerings: ELL Literacy, ELL I, ELL Science as Inquiry, ELL Math, ELL Reading, ELL Social Studies, ELL Communication, ELL Humanities Support, ELL Science Support, ELL Math Support, ELL Reading, ELL Research & Writing, ELL Tutorial; ELO'S	N/A

**Extracurricular Comparison:**

High School	Belmont	Bow	Concord	Laconia	Winnisquam
Interscholastic	11	16	19.5	11	11.5
# of Students	360	624	1,486	600	410
Ratio (Students/Activities)	33:1	39:1	76:1	55:1	36:1

Interscholastic sports not available at Belmont but available at other schools include: Field Hockey, Swim Team (except Winnisquam), Wrestling (except Laconia) and Lacrosse (except Winnisquam).

High School	Belmont	Bow	Concord	Laconia	Winnisquam
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Co-Curricular	16	39	57	21	27
# of Students	360	624	1,486	600	410
Ratio (Students/Activities)	23:1	16:1	26:1	29:1	15:1

Co-Curricular activities not available at Belmont but available at other schools include: Art Club, Interact and Gay Straight Alliance/Gender Awareness. These activities in general appear to vary on a year-to-year basis based on student interest and/or availability of advisors, especially at the smaller high schools.

**Tuition Agreement Comparison:**

The Committee reviewed publicly available tuition agreements that have been adopted by other towns and districts to understand how others have addressed issues such as enrollment restrictions, legal expenses, and tuition reconciliation. The committee’s review of publicly available tuition agreements found a wide array of approaches to tuition agreements throughout the state. Some towns use short memoranda of understanding, while others use more detailed multi-year agreements. There does not appear to be any bog standard form of tuition agreement that is generally accepted throughout the state; instead, each district is free to negotiate whatever form of contract seems reasonable and appropriate for its situation with the receiving district. After reviewing a range of different tuition agreements, the committee recommends that any tuition agreements adopted by the Town of Canterbury address the following issues:

- Tuition agreements should provide for sufficient capacity among the receiving schools to accept all applicable school-age children in Canterbury.
- Canterbury students should be able to finish out their term in the receiving school once they matriculate.
- Tuition responsibility should be clearly stated and include an objective mechanism to address cost increases over the term of the agreement.
- Funding for and availability of special education resources should be expressly addressed.
- Canterbury families should have an express right to raise concerns with the receiving school’s (and district’s, if applicable) administration.

The committee also notes that other NH Towns have taken a variety of approaches to the question of how to provide appropriate educational opportunities for their children including but not limited to:

1. Warren (SAU 23) - Village School K-8 and then in-district high school or waiver program to choose 2 other high schools out of district;
2. Croydon (SAU 99) - Village School K-4 and then innovative program as chosen by family; and
3. Goshen (SAU 102) - K-12 via approved school tuition agreements out of district.

### **SAU Operations, Transportation & Legacy Costs:**

The Committee understands that, following a withdrawal, Canterbury would be required to provide and fund certain superintendent and administrative services required by state and federal law. Due to the size of Canterbury's student population, it is possible that the Town could contract a part-time superintendent similar to other small towns that have withdrawn from preexisting school districts. The Committee strongly recommends that a professional consultant be engaged to appropriately structure and estimate the cost of these services to comply with applicable laws.

Similarly, the cost for transportation should also be evaluated by a professional. It is worth noting that RSA 189:6 Transportation of Pupils mandates transportation for students for grades K-8. A town is not required to provide transportation for high school students.

The Committee also understands that there may be a "legacy" cost involved with the withdrawal process which would include retirement payouts for staff from the preexisting school district. We were unable to find a statute that expressly addressed this type of cost but would also like to defer this to a professional to better evaluate.

### **Education Plan for Both Towns:**

As specified in RSA 195:26 VI. "a plan is required for the education of all students in the withdrawing school district and for the continuation of the school system of the cooperative district. This shall detail the proposed assignment of students in grades operated by the cooperative and withdrawing district or districts including, if any, tuition arrangements or contracts." RSA 195:29 then states that a withdrawal plan that results in the dissolution of a two-district cooperative requires a withdrawal plan for both pre-existing districts. In other words, if the Committee ultimately recommends withdrawal for Canterbury, it must put together withdrawal plans for both Canterbury and Belmont.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The Committee has learned through this fact-finding study that most towns that withdraw from a school district use a hired consultant to prepare the reports. This consultant is typically a retired Superintendent that has better working knowledge of costs within SAUs. SAU80 is challenged by having one (1) school board which encompasses two (2) towns.

The Committee has come to the following conclusions as a result of its work to date:

1. Funding for professional services is essential for the Committee to perform its functions contemplated by the statute.
2. It is unclear the extent of the financial implications to the Town of Belmont would be if Canterbury withdraws from the SAU80.
3. Similarly, members of the Committee do not have the expertise to fully identify the financial implications to the Town of Canterbury in the event of withdrawal.
4. If expanding options is important to Canterbury families, the community will need to step up and support these efforts both financially, through property taxes, and with their time, through

service on a Canterbury school board and other municipal bodies to administer Canterbury district educational offerings.

5. In order to complete this study, the Town of Canterbury would need to approve another Warrant Article with sufficient funding to adequately prepare a report that presents a realistic plan for withdrawal from the Shaker Regional School District to determine feasibility.

**The committee respectfully asks for a one year extension to allow the Town of Canterbury the opportunity to secure funding via their Town Meeting for a consultant and legal counsel to create a more comprehensive feasibility report.**