

WITHDRAWAL STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Elkins Public Library- Canterbury

September 11th, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Randi Johnson, Committee Chairperson, Mark Ekberg, Charlie Krautmann, Calvin Todd, Jessica Treadway and Sumner Dole

Consultant: Phil McCormack

Absent: Tracey LeClair, Cheryl Gordon and Travis O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Randi Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

MEETING MINUTES

Review/Approval of the August 28th 2023 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Jessica Treadway and seconded by Mark Ekberg to approve the August 28th, 2023 Withdrawal Study Committee Meeting Minutes with the noted changes. The motion passed by unanimous vote with Sumner Dole abstaining due to his absence. Calvin Todd arrived just after the vote.

The next meeting of the Withdrawal Study Committee will be September 25th, 2023 in Belmont.

RECEIVING SCHOOL QUESTIONS

- As of 09/11 Phil McCormack has spoken with all five Superintendents. He provided a high level overview of his discussion and set expectations that he would provide the written info for our next meeting. Phil indicated that the Concord School District did indicate that they would be willing to provide administrative services at a cost. Phil will inquire as to what an estimated cost of that could be for budgeting purposes.

COST OF PLAN

- The group reviewed the estimated budget information provided by the SAU. Phil McCormack indicated that when he spoke with Superintendent Michael Tursi earlier today that Mr. Tursi volunteered himself and Business Administrator Debbie Thompson to attend our September 25th meeting to discuss this further. The group committed to reviewing the information provided further over the next two weeks in preparation for that meeting.
- The group discussed Transportation Costs and looked at the numbers provided by the SAU. Randi Johnson has inquired to the SAU if there is a specific cost for Canterbury buses.
- The group discussed some other towns in size and/or in similar make up to what we are looking at for some ideas on some of the costs. Randi Johnson agreed to look into the budget info for Croydon, Goshen, Gilmanton, Pittsfield and Deerfield in preparation for the next meeting.

- The group has concerns that we do not have an accurate estimate of the special education costs for Canterbury Students. Randi Johnson will reach out to the SAU to inquire if all associated special education costs are included in the estimate.

UPDATES

- Legal Guidance
 - Randi Johnson provided an update on the current status of legal guidance. She has engaged the attorney that expressed interest in helping us last year and will be sending him a list of the questions we have so far. The goal is for him to attend the 09/25 meeting after having time to review our questions and provide his guidance. There are a few details to work out still but she is hoping to get that resolved ASAP. In addition, Randi will pull last year's committee's meeting minutes and school board minutes in regards to legal questions and send them to the committee.
 - The group has started to develop a list of question that we will need legal guidance on as follows:
 - What is our legal obligation for transportation? Can we legally provide transportation to one school and allow parents to choose to transport kids to another school ?
 - School of Record definition
 - Where does the state money go? To the receiving school district or the town?
 - Can a buyout be spread out across multiple years? What can be included in it?
 - RSA 195:30 indicates that Canterbury could be allowed to stay within SAU80? Is SAU 80 obligated to provide us superintendent services to us for a cost?
- Survey Results - Average Bus Length based on Survey Responses
 - Canterbury 33 Minutes
 - Belmont 22 Minutes
- Drafting the 2023 Report
 - Charlie Krautmann sent the group additional information from the Department of Education website regarding the comparisons of the schools we are looking at. Randi Johnson will add that to the draft report

NEXT STEPS AND OPEN QUESTIONS

- Future Agenda Items:
 - Options other than Withdrawal
 - Transportation Discussions
 - Central NH Planning Forecast

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 7:50 pm by Sumner Dole and seconded by Jessica Treadway to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randi Johnson
Withdrawal Study Committee Chair