

RSU2 Exploratory/Review Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Mar. 01, 2017 at Bridge Academy Library. Members in attendance were Branden Perrault, Patty Stewart (Resident at Large), Brenda Sawyer (Resident/Teacher), Dale Hinote (Selectman), Jeffrey Pierce (PB), and Shari Lilly (Recording secretary).

Meeting was opened at 6:08 p.m. Branden asked Shari if notice of the meeting had been posted. She said they've been posted at the town office, post office, Pownalborough Hall and all local stores. **Branden** passed out a list of questions that he compiled to hopefully use as a guide to gather information and get it out to the public. He also advised everyone that he is very busy at this time, so he thought it might be a good idea for someone else to step up to take the lead on this committee. Dale is also quite busy, Patty doesn't feel qualified and is readying for her new baby, Brenda has too much going on. Dale also said it would be a conflict of interest for he and Jeff. Dale suggested working through email. Shari asked how to make our information public if we have no meetings with discussions. We could put it on the town website, but we're not sure how it would be done if we work only with email. Patty said if we use the list that Branden made, split it up so everyone is helping, that would take a lot of the load off him. Branden suggested going through the list with each member picking what issue they would be interested in working on. In doing so, each member selected a number of the issues to research – they ranged from the original town vote to form this committee to what the cost will be to the townspeople both in regard to a withdrawal and the cost going into the future.

As to how much it would cost per student, Patty feels this could come down to using vouchers. Jeff said there are a lot of education bills in the Legislature now. Also, by the June town meeting, we won't have this all done with the proper information. Perhaps the summer will give us more time to know what the situation is with the bills and the budget.

#16 -RSU2 fund budget – Should we pull this one? Jeff said we should keep it, but note what it is. Jeff then read an email he received from one of the initial developers of the RSU. He stated that Dresden got 'hoodwinked' into this RSU. Jeff also said it was indicated to him that one person signed for all the signatures on the contract which could make it null and void.

#18 – What happens after withdrawal? Where do we go from here? Jeff said we send out RFPs (Request for Proposals) to other schools or put it to vote of townspeople if they want to go to a voucher system so they can send their kids to the school of their choice. Patty & Brenda both said we can put it out there when we will withdraw so schools can be aware of the loss of our students. Patty then asked if we withdrew, could we ask if they will accept vouchers. Jeff said we would put that out to Hall-Dale or wherever to see what the response would be.

Patty will check on the Special Ed students. Jeff suggested she talk to the Special Ed teacher to get a better view on that. Patty will also take the one in regards to how the teachers feel about the RSU and if they would stay if Dresden withdraws. How their workloads are and if they feel what they are teaching the children is the best it can be.

Branden said we can come back next month with our info, compile what we have into a document to put on the town website, do updates each month as we have them and try to keep the public informed.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 29 at 6 p.m. In the B.A. Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.