

BRIDGEWATER, HEBRON & GROTON STEERING COMMITTEE

297 Mayhew Turnpike
Bridgewater, NH 03222

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Terence Murphy
Bridgewater Selectman

Patrick Moriarty
Hebron Selectman

John Rescigno
Groton Selectman

Erick Piper
Bridgewater Representative

Jennifer Larochelle
Hebron Representative

Virginia Parker
Groton Representative

Derry Riddle
BHVD – Ex Officio

William White
BHVD – Ex Officio

April 10, 2024: Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

Meeting Location: Hebron, Union Congregational Church

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Larochelle, Terence Murphy, Erick Piper and John Rescigno.

Absent: Patrick Moriarty and Virginia Parker.

Ex Officio member present: Derry Riddle.

Ms. Larochelle called the meeting to order, and stated that minutes of the previous meeting are not available, so they will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Ms. Larochelle stated that she will provide an SAU#4 school board report when she has meetings. She stated that the last two meetings have been very interesting. Ms. Wendelboe is exceedingly concerned that Terry states they are going to follow the existing contracts. Ms. Larochelle informed Ms. Wendelboe that it is required by law.

Additional questions were brought up regarding health insurance because the plans belong to SAU #4, so the new school district will not be able to provide the same. Ms. Wendelboe suggested preserving the insurance for the teachers by leasing the teachers back to the new school district.

Ms. Rescigno expressed concerns with this option as we do not want the teachers to still be under SAU #4.

Mr. Piper stated that this could actually be good. It is similar to superintendent services. The new school board would state how operations work, but SAU #4 would provide the staffing and services.

Ms. Larochelle said this was merely an update. Unfortunately the remainder of the SAU #4 board was not on the same page as Ms. Wendelboe.

Ms. Larochelle continued that the president of the union stood up to make the statement that the teachers at BHVS are not in agreement with withdrawing from the district.

Mr. Rescigno said that is their choice. We want them to stay with BHVS, but ultimately they will need to decide.

Discussion ensued on how we can make the teachers comfortable with the transition.

Ms. Larochelle informed the committee that Ms. Wendelboe also wants the school board to send a survey home to Alexandria parents after the Hebron vote to see what they would like to do. She has eluded that they wouldn't want to stay at BHVS after the split. They are just her ideas and are not thought through as there isn't room at the other schools.

Mr. Piper stated he is very surprised as Ms. Wendelboe is fully aware of the current capacity issues.

Mr. Rescigno raised the question; just as we have presented an MOU to tuition students to SAU #4, shouldn't they be coming to us to set up a reciprocal MOU for other student from Bristol and Alexandria to tuition in to BHVS.

Mr. Piper and Ms. Larochelle replied in the affirmative.

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Ms. Riddle asked if any Alexandria students go to Danbury whereas parts of Alexandria are in close proximity.

Ms. Larochelle answered BHVS & BES only

Ms. Larochelle brought to the attention of the committee that one of the students currently in the middle school, is from Hebron, Isaac Barnard. He is part of the TSA program and has just competed and received six different trophies. They are currently meeting and may be going to nationals.

Everyone present extended congratulations to Isaac's father.

Budget Planning:

Mr. Piper explained that they are currently refining figures and had a conversation with the NH DOE. We have a wide variety of school options. More funds are available for an open enrollment based or a specialty school. We could possibly do an environmentally based school due to proximity to Audubon, Grey Rocks and our own Greenhouse.

Matt Barnard stated that Isaac is also a part of the Robotics team and allowing individuals to get into a technology based school would be ideal.

Discussion ensued on different options and the ability to contract positions and be creative.

Contract Negotiations:

Mr. Murphy informed the committee members that the attorney has drafted final tuition agreements for Plymouth and Newfound.

Facility Planning Committee:

Ms. Riddle let committee members know that the scoreboard is at the school and wiring is already in place. It just needs to be hooked up.

Ms. Larochelle stated that donations are still being sought for the balance of the playground project.

Ms. Larochelle requested a date for the next meeting. April 17th in Hebron was the decision.

Ms. Larochelle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Murphy made the motion and Mr. Piper seconded. All present in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.