

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

January 17, 2024: Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

Meeting Location: Union Congregational Church, Hebron NH

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Larochelle, Patrick Moriarty, Terence Murphy, Virginia Parker and John Rescigno.

Absent: Erick Piper

Ex Officio Members Present: Derry Riddle

Ms. Larochelle called the meeting to order.

Ms. Larochelle inquired to see if the December 13, 2023 draft minutes have been received.

Ms. Parker stated that she was in contact with Hillary and she was awaiting an email.

Ms. Larochelle asked for any updates to the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Riddle requested a few minor updates.

Ms. Larochelle asked for a motion to accept the public meeting minutes as amended.

Mr. Moriarty moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Parker seconded. Five approvals.

Ms. Larochelle asked for confirmation on the hearing dates from the Town's for their budget and warrant articles.

The following have been confirmed:

Hebron February 8, 2024 6pm – Union Congregational Church (Basement)

Groton February 13, 2024 6pm – Groton Town hall

Bridgewater Selectmen will confirm their date at their meeting this Thursday.

Ms. Larochelle asked for committee updates.

Education Committee updates:

Ms. Larochelle stated that although this committee is very important, she will most likely not have further updates until we know if the new school district is approved.

Budget and Contract Negotiations Committee updates:

Ms. Parker stated that we have begun creating the budget. One item that will be a task is modeling salaries. Until the new contract is approved, there is some unknown.

Mr. Murphy explained that we have already assembled a template for all of the line items that are involved in the budget for a similar size school district. We now need to pull the numbers for all of the line items.

Teacher Contracts Committee updates:

Ms. Larochelle let everyone know that this committee is very similar to the Education Committee and we will not have further updates until we know if the new school district is approved.

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Facilities Committee updates:

Mr. Murphy mentioned that we are still looking for donations/grants for approximately \$40,000 for the playground project.

Ms. Riddle mentioned that we will be looking for donations towards a new scoreboard.

Ms. Larochelle stated that maybe a sponsor such a pepsi or coke.

Ms. Larochelle opened the meeting for public comments/questions.

Mark Coulson asked if there is anything the public needs to know or do regarding the upcoming deliberative session for the SAU.

Ms. Larochelle stated that because the SAU is SB2 the deliberative session is where the Warrant Articles and Budget could be changed. It will still be important for individuals to attend, so that our towns have a voice.

Discussion ensued regarding one of the concerns regarding the SAU reducing positions.

Debra Hart asked when the voting for any available SAU positions will be.

Ms. Larochelle answered that the voting takes place on March 12th, when the school ballot will be voted on.

Ms. Parker added that the first day to file for any vacant positions will be 1/24 and they have until 2/2 to file.

Bridget Barnard informed everyone that all the petition warrant articles are currently listed on the agenda for next Monday's School Board meeting.

Discussion ensued around the next steps that will need to be taken if the new school district is voted in.

Discussion ensued around the budget for the SAU and the budget that the new school district will form.

Matt Barnard stated that his ongoing concern is around the turnover within the SAU. Will the new school district focus on teacher retention.

Discussion ensued regarding teachers and contract and when that can happen and what benefits may look like.

Matt Barnard asked if SAU services will be hybrid.

Discussion ensued regarding the options for SAU services and how some pieces will be maintained in house and others can be outsourced.

Ms. Larochelle asked if there were any other comments/questions from the public.

Ms. Larochelle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Recigno seconded. All committee members present were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm