

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 31, 2024: Meeting called to order at 6pm

Meeting Location: Bridgewater Town Hall, 297 Mayhew Turnpike

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

Absent: Patrick Moriarty, Virginia Parker and John Rescigno.

Ex Officio Members Present: Derry Riddle

Ms. Larochelle called the meeting to order.

Ms. Larochelle explained that without a quorum the committee cannot review minutes or provide committee updates. The meeting will be opened up to public questions and comments.

Ms. Riddle provided an update on behalf of the Bridgewater-Hebron Village District Commissioners to let the steering committee and the public know that there is currently a proposal and a sponsor for a new scoreboard in the gym.

Mr. Murphy stated that other items recently discussed at the most recent meeting of the commissioners for the village district were regarding groups that currently utilize the school facilities. BHVD will continue to allow TTCC to use the fields. Modifications will need to be made to the current softball field to allow for baseball. The other topic was looking for additional donations for completion of the new playgrounds.

Mr. Murphy let the public know that the steering committee currently has sent a request to SAU #4 for information regarding receipts from various sources. Two members of the committee have reached out to the Department of Education to receive information regarding Title 1, 2, 3 etc.

Mr. Piper stated that for federal funding on food services, the new school district would be required to go out to bid for food services in order to qualify for any aid.

Ms. Larochelle provided the hearing dates for each town to accept the warrant article for town meeting. Hebron is Feb. 6th @ 6pm, Groton is Feb 13 @ 6pm and Bridgewater is Feb. 22 @ 7pm.

Ms. Larochelle asked if the individuals present had any questions.

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Christina Reynolds stated that she has been talking to other individuals that don't attend these meetings and they state that all the minutes online seem to be the same and aren't moving forward and do not include any figures yet.

Mr. Piper explained that due to the SAU #4 loss of data, it has become more difficult to build a proforma budget. They have gathered number from last years SAU #4 budget and compared that to Ashland and Thornton (similar size districts as what the new school district will be). We do not believe this will be cost prohibitive.

Mr. Murphy added that in the 2022-2023 school year, the 3 towns contributed approximately \$4 million dollars to SAU #4.

If this vote passes, we will need a lot of help because that is when the heavy lift will happen.

Mr. Piper stated that the good news is the worst-case scenario we are not far off from what we presently contribute to SAU #4.

Discussion ensued regarding current budgets and tuition students. It was also stated that curriculum will be easier to develop within one school instead of seven towns and five schools. It was also mentioned that there will be cooperative sports and extracurricular activities.

Christina Reynolds also mentioned that at the latest school board meeting all the principals presented their testing results and the scores were higher than Plymouth in most areas.

Mr. Piper stated that we were higher in language arts, but lower in Math & Science.

Ms. Larochelle stated with no further public questions we will close the meeting.

The meeting ended at 6:45pm.