

**BRIDGEWATER, HEBRON & GROTON**  
**STEERING COMMITTEE**  
297 Mayhew Turnpike  
Bridgewater, NH 03222

**DRAFT**

**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 17, 2024: Meeting called to order at 6pm

Meeting Location: Hebron Union Congregational Church

Committee Members Present: Terence Murphy, Virginia Parker, Erick Piper and Patrick Moriarty.

Absent: Jennifer Larochelle and John Rescigno.

Ex Officio member present: Derry Riddle.

Mr. Piper called the meeting to order.

Mr. Piper asked for a motion to accept the 3-27-24 minutes as presented.

Mr. Murphy made the motion and seconded by Ms. Parker. Mr. Moriarty abstained.

Mr. Piper asked for a motion to approve the executive session minutes of 3-27-24 and Mr. Murphy made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Parker. Mr. Moriarty abstained.

Mr. Piper asked for a motion to approve the 4-10-24 minutes. Mr. Murphy made the motion which Mr. Piper seconded. All were in favor

Mr. Piper then requested Committee reports.

Ms. Riddle discussed that a staff member is concerned because their union lawyer stated they cannot have a guarantee that they will be hired by the new school district.

Mr. Murphy stated that Ms. Larochelle forwarded the correspondence from our attorney that had sent a link to the court case referencing the case law.

Mr. Piper stated that Steve Nilhas updated the teachers.

Ms. Riddle said other concerns are how the new school board will be elected or appointed. They were informed of what will happen and they are now fine.

Mr. Murphy heard that the teachers were offended by Fran Wendelboe's comment of "leasing" the teachers. It could possibly be an agreement of contracted services.

Mr. Piper asked Ms. Parker to provide an update on the HB349 committee meeting.

Ms. Parker stated that the two representatives from the school board, the superintendent and the business administrator were present. It was evident that there are unresolved emotions regarding the towns leaving the school district. She went on to state that an attempt was made to reassure them, but their focus was that of which the new school board will not be able to supply school choice.

A discussion ensued regarding the dynamics of the school board HB349 committee meeting and on how our committee should move forward.

Mr. Piper said that we are redefining our relationship with the school board.

Mr. Murphy stated that our focus is on the discussions with our attorney outlining the steps that need to be taken between SAU #4 and the new school district.

Ms. Parker is currently preparing a document with deadlines that will be set with the school board. We will have deadlines to finalize all agreements (Tailings and Tuition).

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Mr. Piper stated that the business side will let the board know the financial impact if the Hebron vote passes.

Ms. Parker stated that they will be holding another session on 5/6 to discuss HB349.

Mr. Piper said it is a meeting to discuss how they can educate the public on the decision. We will let them work through their process.

Facility Committee

Mr. Murphy stated that SAU#4 will need to discuss the preschool. He added that a new lease needs to be drawn up for the last year. Obviously, some items will be negotiated.

Communication Committee

Mr. Moriarty stated that another letter will be sent to Hebron residents.

Bill Luti requested that a letter be sent to all residents and also mention in the newsletter.

Discussions ensued regarding teachers within our towns and concerns they have regarding the transition.

Another discussion ensued regarding the timing to reach out to residents of all three towns. Consensus was after the Hebron vote and not to wait too long after that.

Mr. Piper opened the meeting up to public comment.

Matt Barnard brought to the committee's attention that one of the concerns is the ability to stay with friends. If the vote passes will students be able to choose and remain with their friends. There is still too much unknown, whereas you cannot legally bind any contracts.

Ms. Parker stated that the day after the vote, we will communicate our progress with the public.

Mr. Piper stated that we will need to prepare a fact document for the public info session.

Mr. Piper asked if there were any additional questions or information to share. Seeing none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Moriarty made the motion and Ms. Parker seconded. All present in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.