

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

June 5, 2024: Meeting called to order at 6pm

Meeting Location: Bridgewater Town Hall

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

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order.

Mr. Murphy announced that the minutes of the previous meeting are not currently available and will be approved next week.

Due to new community members attending the meeting, the committee went around the table with introductions of each committee member.

Legal Update

Mr. Murphy stated that the vote certifications for each town and the documentation to request and SAU # and the special purpose school district name will be sent to the NH Department of Education by Friday.

For the initial filing, we want to request Pasquaney School District as the name. I need a motion to request this name during the initial filing to the NH Department of Education.

Mr. Piper made a motion for a place holder for the name Pasquaney School District for the initial filing. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and all member present were in favor

Mr. Murphy announced that we have received a 91a request from a Groton resident, Mr. William Jolly. He is requesting we provide him with everything we have to date. Everything is currently on our website. We do not have any formal agreements or contracts as of yet as we are not a formal SAU yet.

Mr. Murphy read the 91a request into record.

Discussion ensued regarding the 91a request and the fact that all of our information is readily available on the website. Also, the Sau#4 request he sent, should be readily available to him as a school board member. Our attorney will send a draft response, and once reviewed we will answer the 91a request.

Mr. Murphy mentioned the last item on the legal agenda is the tuition and tailings agreements. These have to be discussed in non-public session once we have blessing from both attorneys.

Ms. Parker mentioned, upon reviewing the most recent version, it is different from what we received from the SAU#4 school board.

Mr. Murphy answered that our attorney and SAU#4's attorney are in agreement on this version. The only one that will need to review and agree is the SAU #4 board.

Ms. Parker stated that it is imperative that we drive home the fact that negotiations are non-public, with a very much public approval process afterwards.

Mr. Moriarty asked if there is an urgency now for items to be completed by SAU #4

Ms. Parker answered Yes, they will begin to meet weekly to review the items.

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Other News:

Mr. Murphy announced that we have been approached by an individual that would like to assist with the set up of the new school district. In addition, we have been approached by an SAU that would like to provide Superintendent Services. Lastly, Plymouth has been authorized to sign the tuition agreements. The last item in your packet should be a list provided by the attorney of the items we will need to work through prior to July 1, 2025.

Matt Barnard informed the steering committee that at the last SAU#4 school board meeting they stated they do not even want new enrolled kindergarten students for 2024 to go to BHVS.

Karen Simula stated that she knows of a handful of Alexandria residents that were not provided a choice at all and were told that their child has to attend BES.

Mr. Murphy said we cannot stop them, but parents under RSA # 193 an petition to have their student go to whatever school they want.

The current BHVS lease was brought up and the question was; when does that current lease expire.

Mr. Murphy said the SAU #4 school board was notified months ago that the lease expires on June 30, 2024. There is a one year extension clause in the lease. The attorney are reviewing the current request by SAU #4. Once drafted, we will review.

Mr. Moriarty brought to the attention of the committee that we have reviewed a tremendous amount of information, but nothing in regards to the teachers. When will we be able to negotiate contracts with them?

Mr. Murphy answered that we are currently waiting on guidance that will be provided by both attorneys.

Karen Simula asked if the teachers are aware, or what they are being told about future enrollments and the possibility of pulling students out of BHVS?

Discussions ensue regarding kindergarten students and the fact that the steering committee would like SAU #4 to continue the pre-school program at BHVS. Further discussion ensue regarding items that will need to be negotiated once we have the approval to operate our school district from the NH DOE.

Town Resident asked is any teachers have provided notice that they are leaving BHVS.

Matt Barnard answered that in the SAU#4 board meeting any of the retirements or resignations are not from BHVS and Steve Nilhas current superintendent called all Alexandria student's parents and they all want to stay enrolled in BHVS.

Mr. Murphy requested that we meet again next week, but to meet at the Union Congregational Church in Hebron.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Piper seconded. All in Favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.