

Approved 9/8/2014

Cornish SAU 6 Study Committee

8/11/14

Meeting called to order by Troy Simino at 7:00

Agenda Revision Approval

Peter Lynch made a motion to accept Nicole Saginor 2nd

Motion passed

Election of Officers

Troy Simino suggested accepting the slate voted on during unofficial meetings

Nicole Saginor motioned to accept slate of:

Heidi Jaarsma, Chairman

Bill Palmer, Vice Chair

Peter Lynch, Secretary

Peter Lynch 2nd

Motion Passed

Heidi Jaarsma suggested Introductions of Committee Members

Troy Simino, Logger, Chairman of School Board

Peter Lynch, Retired Biomedical Engineer

Dr. Nicole Saginor, Former School Superintendent, Former School Board Member

Dr. Bill Palmer, Medical Doctor, Former School Board Member

Dr. Middleton McGoodwin, Superintendent SAU6

Sandy Carlson, Mother of 3 children

Holly Taft, mother, School Board Member

Heidi Jaarsma, Parent, Town Treasurer

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Heidi Jaarsma addressed Recording of Minutes issues

Heidi suggested minutes be recorded on a rotating basis and offered to digitally record the meetings.

Peter Lynch offered to collate and type the minutes.

Heidi Jaarsma Presented Process and Timeline Summary under RSA194-C:2

The Summary indicated the committee had three options:

- 1) Organization
- 2) Reorganization
- 3) Withdrawal

The summary charged the committee to:

- 1) Study advisability
- 2) Estimate costs
- 3) Estimate financing
- 4) Prepare fiscal analysis
- 5) Consult with the Department of Education

Timeline – 1 year / March 2015

Present to Town by December 2014

Discussion:

The board discussed what the town had charged the committee to do, and referring to the School Meeting Minutes, the Town Moderator was to select a Committee to look at withdrawal from SAU6.

Bill Palmer asked that if we decide to withdraw, would everything have need to be done by March 2015?

Heidi Jaarsma indicated we should propose a plan that was open to public comment.

Caroline Storrs asked if the public would be able to see everything the Board was doing.

A discussion followed, looking at where was the appropriate place to record the Committees' progress.

Heidi Jaarsma stated the Hampton School had their own website during their withdrawal process.

It was roundly agreed that the Hampton School option would not be practical for this committee.

Dr. McGoodwin indicated the SAU Website was not the proper vehicle either.

It was agreed this committees' progress should be on the Cornish School website. Caroline Storrs shared that Jen Wishnefsky was the contact person in the past, and since she has moved on to another School, we would have to inquire about her replacement.

Dr. McGoodwin then posed the question of how the committee was going to fund the work done by an SAU6 employee.

This segued into a discussion addressing the fact the committee had no funding. Susan Chandler and Nicole Saginor shared that past committees also had no funding and merely gathered information.

Heidi Jaarsma suggested that we might have to rely on the New Hampshire School Board Assn. for how-to advice and Legal advice might be available through the Town Municipal Assn. membership acknowledging that School System issues might be outside their area of expertise.

Discussion of Goals

It was agreed we needed to look at the service we currently receive from SAU and the Costs associated with said services.

It was agreed that we should investigate the minimum required services mandated by law, and compare that list with what we receive from the SAU.

Discussion regarding looking at all options prompted a comment from Troy Simino, warning that the committee look at a finite list of options, given the amount of time the committee had to complete their charge.

Options suggested were:

- 1) Stay with SAU6
- 2) A potential Cornish Plainfield Union
- 3) A potential Cornish Windsor Union
- 4) A stand alone Cornish Union Subcontracting services out
- 5) A non-contiguous Union i.e. Grantham

All agreed, our first order of business had to be identification of what we get, how much it costs and whether what we get currently meets the needs of the teachers and administration of the Cornish School. Once done we can put a cogent package out to bid.

SAU6 Power Point Presentation of Services and Costs Presented by Dr. McGoodwin

Dr. McGoodwin outlined the 2013- 2014 budget and the expenses incurred by Cornish representing the 11-12% share of the SAU total. Dr. McGoodwin also addressed the current restructuring of the SAU due to staff departures.

Heidi Jaarsma asked if the Superintendent had a list of the required services a SAU must provide. Dr. McGoodwin stated he had a non-comprehensive list.

When discussions evolved to “ What the town might want”, Troy Simino warned, we needed exercise caution. Nicole Saginor concurred citing, “we need to look at what we need by law”.

Further discussion revolved around the restructuring and the associated increase or decrease in the SAU budget. Would the 2014-15 budget reflect no longer having an Assistant Superintendent?

Jeff Pruel questioned the Superintendents’ salary, and whether it was in line with other school districts; and pressed further asking if we could do better for that money.

Caroline Storrs called to question, the services the Superintendent outlined, being only what the State RSA required and nothing more.

Nicole Saginor and Heidi Jaarsma both expressed concerns that the itemized costs in the PowerPoint were vague and required more detail. They also wanted summaries reflecting the impact and costs of restructuring.

Dr. McGoodwin agreed to send the committee more comprehensive and current budget information.

Discussions continued about what had been done in past committees.

Nicole Saginor shared the conversation she had with Mary Mayo with the State Board of Education, explaining that, although she is very approachable, she is an Administrative Assistant and unable to give advice. She also reinforced that if we come up with a plan, we must have it submitted by December.

Moving Forward

Heidi Jaarsma suggested we all come to the next meeting with a list of options to be explored.

Holly Taft suggested we do it now.

Bill Palmer suggested the following:

- 1) Stay with SAU6
- 2) Single District
- 3) Plainfield
- 4) Windsor * Special Interstate School District Considerations
- 5) Grantham
- 6) Lyme

Troy again pointed out we need to have a package to present to the people we may seek partnership with.

Bill Palmer suggested the Principal and teachers be asked, “Is what we get enough”?

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It was pointed out in the past, Program Directors from the SAU came before the Committees and outlined what was done for Cornish and the SAU, clarifying what we get for our money.

Dr. McGoodwin stated, "My Professionals are not part of this group", and indicated he would send along updated roles responsibilities and salaries.

Heidi Jaarsma stated we must distill the information from the documents.

Troy Simino asked who was going to do the distilling.

Heidi Jaarsma said she would do the RSA, and Nicole Saginor offered to use her talents as a former Principal, Superintendent of Schools and Curriculum Coordinator.

Next Meeting Sept. 8th 7:00 at the Town Hall