

Unofficial Minutes
SAU6 Study Committee
09/28/2015

Meeting called to order by Heidi Jaarsma at 7:01 PM.

Attendees: Heidi Jaarsma, Sandra Carlson, Nicole Saginor, Justin Ranney, Holly Taft, Pete Lynch

Absent: William Palmer

Holly Taft moved the agenda be approved as written, seconded by Sandra Carlson, motion passed.

Corrections to minutes were as follows:

*the date of the August meeting should be 08/24/2015

*Page 1 paragraph 10 should be prefaced by, "Because further research into State Statutes would be required".

Nicole Saginor motioned the minutes be accepted as revised, seconded by Holly Taft, motion passed.

Heidi Jaarsma shared the outcome of the meeting with the SAU 32 Business Manager and Principal, to discuss finance and governing structure if we were to join the SAU. At this time, it appears that the only option open to Cornish would be to purchase services from their SAU and create our own SAU.

Nicole Saginor shared that the School Board in Plainfield could at any time approve this deal, however, Cornish joining their SAU would have to go before the Plainfield voters in March. She likened this arrangement to living together before getting married, and supported the idea of further exploration of forming our own SAU.

She further added that, there seems to be ample evidence that communities such as ours , that have formed a single SAU are very pleased with the outcome, citing Monroe, NH as an example.

Heidi Jaarsma then shared some of the benefits a single SAU format would offer, such as one budget, board and set of financial reports vs. three in a joint SAU

Nicole Saginor added that we could share a Business Manager and Superintendent, and perhaps a Special Education Director.

Addressing Technology she offered that they had an integrator and teacher with hardware support from Systems Plus. Going forward we might look at the Windsor SE Supervisory Union Tech Services, stating they have an excellent handle on things.

Heidi Jaarsma pointed out that we could shop around for the best services.

Heidi Jaarsma opened the topic for committee comment.

Holly Taft stated that the single SAU option was tabled previously and indicated she did not think the committee should go in that direction.

Pete Lynch stated that when the committee investigated the single SAU option, further study was tabled only to direct the committee's efforts towards joining a SAU. He further pointed out, that the committee agreed that, based on preliminary investigation the single SAU idea was workable option.

Heidi Jaarsma stated, now that we have more information, we can compare apples to apples, and that we need to spend time looking at the numbers and then make a decision.

Sandra Carlson asked, if we purchase services from Plainfield, would we have to buy their software?

Heidi Jaarsma replied, what we buy will be dictated by what services we buy.

Nicole Saginor stated software is not static, and that we could incur increases at any time, and further added that Windsor SE Supervisory Union might have a better handle on the topic.

She further shared that she is much more comfortable with the Single SAU idea after having talked with Monroe

Heidi Jaarsma then presented a preliminary budget, pointing out that it was just a template and the numbers were not to be viewed as anything but a guess. A true budget outlook would have to wait until the committee had evaluated all costs.

Justin Ranney stated that it made sense to follow the Single SAU plan.

The topic was opened to the Public.

Caroline Storrs asked for an idea of what the SAU salary and benefits might look like.

Heidi Jaarsma offered that there could be a .3 Superintendent, a .5 Tech person, a .4 Spec. Ed. Professional as an example.

Nicole Saginor stated the Superintendent might be in Cornish one day per week.

George Edson stated he was confused where the numbers came from.

Heidi Jaarsma said they would come from a comparison of SAU6 costs vs. a Plainfield sub contract cost study.

George Edson stated that he thinks that Plainfield changed their mind about Cornish

Nicole Saginor stated that after talking with two small schools, controlling their own destiny that they were very happy not being swallowed up by someone else.

Heidi Jaarsma stated that we would have better numbers in October.

George Edson stated that Plainfield's change of position changes everything, and that we should shop around. He further offered that there is a lot of history and politics with the two towns.

Nicole Saginor stated she already has numbers from the Windsor SE Supervisory Union.

Regarding the upcoming community forum on Education in Cornish, Justin Rainey asked if someone from the committee could give an overview of where we were at in our process.

Heidi Jaarsma suggested one of the School Board representatives on the committee should do the presentation.

Heidi Jaarsma gave a presentation outlining what the definitions and structure of various school systems were and what we in Cornish are looking at in order to clear up what the public might be thinking.

Justin Ranney shared that the Moderator from the Department of Education could not attend due to conflict in schedule.

Alicia Simino stated she was worried about the forum, fearing the “close the school” contingent in town would turn the meeting into a free for all. She suggested it be cancelled.

Holly Taft suggested that was not the intention of the forum, and Justin Rainey agreed.

Justin Ranney, George Edson, Susan Chandler and Linda Fuerst all complemented Heidi Jaarsma on her presentation and encouraged her to present it at the forum.

Heidi Jaarsma said she would discuss the presentation with the school board.

It was suggested that the forum be postponed until the moderator they wanted was available.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Nicole Saginor, seconded by Justin Rainey, motion passed.

Next meeting: October 26th

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter Lynch, Secretary