

Cornish SAU Planning Committee

May 25, 2015

RSA 194-C:2.IV: Withdrawal

Most school districts that have withdrawn from an SAU through RSA 194-C:2 have gone on to form single district SAUs. Therefore, there is little precedent governing the process of withdrawal and reorganization with an existing district.

source: NHSBA

Bow and Dunbarton

In 2013 the Dunbarton School District withdrew from SAU 19 (Dunbarton, Goffstown, and New Boston) and joined Bow's single district SAU 67. This decision was tied to an AREA agreement between Bow and Dunbarton.

- Dunbarton and Bow each created planning committees under 194-C:2. The two planning committees created a joint report and plan.
- Dunbarton placed an article on its 2013 District Warrant to withdraw from SAU 19 and join SAU 67.
- Bow placed an article on its 2013 District Warrant to reorganize SAU 67 to involve the districts of Bow and Dunbarton.

source: Bow Dunbarton SAU Draft Report

IV. Withdrawal.

(a) The planning committee shall:

(1) Study the advisability of the withdrawal of a specific school district from a school administrative unit in accordance with this chapter, its organization, operation and control, and the advisability of constructing, maintaining and operating a school or schools to serve the needs of such school district.

(2) Estimate the construction and operating costs of operating such school or schools.

(3) Investigate the methods of financing such school or schools, and any other matters pertaining to the organization and operation of a school administrative unit.

(4) Prepare an educational and fiscal analysis of the impact of the withdrawing district on any school districts remaining in the school administrative unit and a proposed plan for the disposition of any school administrative unit assets and liabilities.

(5) Consult with the department of education regarding any unique issues and resolve such issues in a timely manner and submit a report or reports of its findings and recommendations to the several school districts within the existing school administrative unit.

(b) If the planning committee recommends the withdrawal from a school administrative unit, it shall prepare a plan for organization or reorganization. The plan shall include providing superintendent services, which meet the requirements set forth in RSA 194-C:4, and a transition plan and timeline, which includes consideration of transition budgets and staffing for the withdrawing district, and is signed by at least a majority of the membership of the planning committee.

(c) The planning committee may submit to the board of an existing school administrative unit, a plan for joining the existing school administrative unit. If approved, the plan shall be submitted to the state board of education and the school district voters in accordance with this section.

An Interpretation of RSA 194:C-2.IV.c

(c) The planning committee may submit to the board of an existing school administrative unit, a plan for joining the existing school administrative unit. If approved, the plan shall be submitted to the state board of education and the school district voters in accordance with this section.

- Where the statute says “If approved” means approved by the board of the SAU Cornish would seek to join. The statute says the plan is submitted to the board of an existing SAU, and then says “if approved” the plan is then submitted to the NHDOE and the district voters. The interpretation is that it seeks approval of the SAU board. There’s no specific mention of it going to the voters of the current SAU.
- However, based on the language of the other provisions regarding withdrawal, one would have to think that at some point the voters of the existing SAU would have a vote on whether or not to accept a new school district within the SAU. The decision would not necessarily be left solely to the SAU board.
- The district could vote on a withdrawal and new “partner” at a single annual meeting, albeit via two warrant articles. The first article would be a vote to withdraw, and the second article would be a contingent article - vote to join an existing SAU, contingent on the vote to withdraw passing.

SOURCE: NHSBA

Next Steps

SAU 32: June 4, 2015, School Board Meeting

Meet with Plainfield School Board to obtain a sense of the School Board regarding reorganization with the Cornish School District. A reorganization plan would need to include:

- An educational mission statement for a combined SAU 32.
- An leadership structure and organization plan to provide SAU services to both districts.
- A preliminary estimated budget and apportionment schedule for a combined SAU 32.
- A transition plan and timeline: a March 2016 approval would take effect July 1, 2017.

Next Steps

SAU 6: study the educational and fiscal impact of withdrawal.

IV. Withdrawal.

(a) The planning committee shall:

(1) Study the advisability of the withdrawal of a specific school district from a school administrative unit in accordance with this chapter, its organization, operation and control, and the advisability of constructing, maintaining and operating a school or schools to serve the needs of such school district.

(2) Estimate the construction and operating costs of operating such school or schools.

(3) Investigate the methods of financing such school or schools, and any other matters pertaining to the organization and operation of a school administrative unit.

(4) Prepare an educational and fiscal analysis of the impact of the withdrawing district on any school districts remaining in the school administrative unit and a proposed plan for the disposition of any school administrative unit assets and liabilities.

(5) Consult with the department of education regarding any unique issues and resolve such issues in a timely manner and submit a report or reports of its findings and recommendations to the several school districts within the existing school administrative unit.

Next Steps

SAU 6: study the educational and fiscal impact of withdrawal.

Scenario 1: SAU 6 - Claremont, Cornish, Unity

Scenario 2: SAU 6 - Claremont, Unity

- An educational mission statement under both scenarios
- A leadership structure and organization plan to provide SAU services under both scenarios.
- An estimated budget and apportionment schedule under both scenarios.

Next meeting:

Monday, June 22, 2015, 7:00 pm

Future Agenda:

- Report of 6/4 meeting with Plainfield School Board.
- Report of meeting with SAU 6.
- Study direction: single district or join existing SAU.
- Begin drafting report.

Summer 2015 Meeting Dates

All Meetings are Mondays at 7pm at the Cornish Elementary School unless otherwise noted.

June 22

July 27

August 24 (location tbd)