

Approved minutes
SAU 6 Study Committee

May 25, 2014

Present: Heidi Jaarsma, Nicole Saginor, William Palmer, Glenn Thornton, Sandra Carlson, Pete Lynch

Absent: Holly Taft, Middleton McGoodwin

Meeting called to order by Heidi Jaarsma at 7:00PM

Agenda Revisions: Motion was made by Glenn Thornton, seconded by William Palmer to accept the agenda as written. Motion passed.

Minutes: Corrections to previous month's minutes; Glenn Thornton's name is spelled with two n's. Heidi Jaarsma asked that the approximate percentages for the Apportionment Formula written 66% Plainfield-33% Cornish be changed to 63% Plainfield- 37% Cornish. Motion to accept minutes as revised was made by Glenn Thornton seconded by William Palmer. Motion Passed.

Review of Subcommittee meeting with Plainfield Superintendent and Business Manager:

Heidi invited the members to share their impressions of the meeting.

Nicole Saginor stated she thought we were currently looking at initially becoming our own SAU and purchasing our services from them, versus joining their SAU. Their board could approve that immediately avoiding the time it would take for the two towns to vote on our joining their SAU outright. We would also initially avoid the Apportionment Ratio, allowing us to negotiate for services. She added that she felt they were very eager to move forward with this partnership.

William Palmer shared that he intended to attend their School Board meeting and ask if they had a strong preference as to which direction this process should go, giving us a better idea how we might proceed.

He felt they too were anxious about declining enrollment and the impact that had on their school system, and this merger might serve both communities well.

He went on to raise the question, If we create our own SAU, do we have to duplicate this process to join their SAU?

Heidi Jaarsma indicated that she would answer that question when she presented the steps to withdrawal.

Sandra Carlson stated she thought a merge might offer the best cost savings for both schools, however we might have to wait until Plainfield is ready to commit to that. Meanwhile creating our own SAU and purchasing services from Plainfield or from someone else might give us the best bang for the buck.

Peter Lynch added that he was struck by the enthusiasm Plainfield had for this process, and how they embraced the educational opportunities this union might provide. He added he was glad we had this very viable option.

Heidi Jaarsma indicated she heard two of the board members refer to Plainfield being hesitant to have us immediately join the SAU and that she believes this hesitation would be assuaged if we clarify the process. When SAU 32 and Cornish both understand and agree on what the process is, both communities will feel better about both options.

Withdrawal Process:

Heidi Jaarsma presented the steps and legal requirements necessary to Withdraw from SAU6. Details are available on Cornish website. www.cornishnh.net

We need to develop a plan, educational and fiscal. We need to address changes that would take place with SAU 6 i.e. What does SAU model of Claremont / Unity look like vs. Claremont / Unity / Cornish?

We need to submit our plan to SAU 32 for approval. If approved, send plan to the DOE. Submit plan to voters.

If all is approved the transition would take 1.5 yrs.

Caroline Storrs asked, "What does the committee want to do? Join SAU32 or Single SAU.

The committee agreed that they will have a better sense of direction once we find out Plainfield's preferences. All agreed that we need to examine all of the

educational and fiscal specifics to make an informed decision, and that we need to act quickly and begin to formulate a plan.

George Edson said he was impressed with openmindedness of the committee, however we must quickly choose a direction to take.

Carolyn Storrs offered that we should look at the most recent withdrawal in the state, Hampton, NH, as a template for our own.

Future Agenda:

Hear Bill's report of the SAU 32 School Board meeting

Review the meeting with the SAU6 Business Manager

Study direction and begin drafting our report

Future meetings: June 22, July 27, August 24

Sandra Carlson shared that the New England Classical Academy in Claremont may be interested in working together on a PrdK-12th grade program with Cornish.

Nicole Saginor stated that Windsor might also be interested.

Motion to adjourn made by Glenn Thornton seconded by William Palmer. Motion passed at 8:15PM.