

BRIDGEWATER, HEBRON & GROTON STEERING COMMITTEE

297 Mayhew Turnpike
Bridgewater, NH 03222

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

October 18, 2023: Meeting called to order at 6pm

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Larochelle, Patrick Moriarty, Terence Murphy, Erick Piper and John Rescigno.

Absent: Virginia Parker

Ex Officio Members Present: Derry Riddle

Ms. Larochelle called the meeting to order.

Ms. Larochelle asked for any updates to the minutes of the September 27, 2023 and October 11 meeting.

Ms. Larochelle asked for a motion to accept the public meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Rescigno moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Murphy seconded. All members present approved.

Ms. Larochelle asked for feedback on the community meetings.

Mr. Rescigno stated that 30 to 40 individuals attended the Groton meeting. It was all positive and the town's people would like a pro-forma budget before voting in March.

Mr. Murphy stated that Bridgewater received about the same turnout for their River Road area meeting. He said it was overall positive with one parent voicing some concerns that will be answered.

Mr. Moriarty stated that the Hebron area meeting will take place tomorrow at 6pm.

Education Committee updates:

Ms. Larochelle stated that they recently toured the school and the goal will be to add grades 6 through 8. This will not be done all at once and students will be tuitioned into the middle school until we are able to transition BHVS through 8th grade.

Budget and Contracts Committee updates:

Mr. Piper stated that there has been discussions with the School Board HB349 Sub Committee regarding Superintendent Services, Tuition Agreements and Tailing agreements. Although we have yet to receive most answers, we did receive a positive response recently that they are willing to work through a Tailing Agreement. There would be a bridge period and this would go through 2029 presently.

In addition, we would like to work cooperatively on keeping the Pre-K program going.

Our committee has also been in conversations with food service companies and transportations companies. Not to mention that the NH Department of Education has provided a wealth of knowledge and are will to assist us through this transition.

Teacher Contracts Committee updates:

Ms. Larochelle let everyone know that there aren't any new updates at this time due to the honor agreement per statute.

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Facilities Committee updates:

Mr. Murphy stated that a grant for playground equipment is in process and the playground equipment is specialized for children with disabilities.

Ms. Riddle added that there is a meeting scheduled with the playground equipment company tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Murphy added that the current chimney will be repaired in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Larochelle opened the meeting up to public questions and comments.

Mr. Moriarty reminded individuals that tomorrow is the Hebron area meeting.

Paul Hazelton asked in regards to superintendent duties, are there districts that do a hybrid?

Mr. Murphy answered that there are a number of different models. Ashland sends its high school students to Plymouth, but Inter-Lakes handles some of the superintendent services.

Mr. Piper asked for clarification of the question. Are you asking if we will have some of the services completed in-house and outsource the remainder?

Yes, we can complete some services in-house and outsource others.

Christina Reynolds stated she would like to know when the public can expect to receive numbers. SAU 80 has Canterbury doing the same and they have already provided everything.

Mr. Murphy stated that we just started this as we needed to wait until HB349 was approved. Now we are attempting to work through certain items with SAU #4.

Mr. Piper added we could not proceed until the governor signed HB349, which just happened in August.

Then we needed to form the Steering Committee and sub-committees

The next piece was engaging with others and we have had multiple issues with getting responses from SAU #4. They have responded that they are reviewing our requests.

We want to meet all of our resident's expectations.

Christina Reynolds said Thank you . . . I just want to make sure when you say that the meetings went well, does that mean everyone is onboard.

Mr. Piper replied we originally had others telling SAU #4 not to provide any services to us because they didn't want us to leave. As you all know, change can cause disruption and that is not our intent.

John Dunklee stated you were on the radio toady on local reporting on what is happening although it was very neutral, I am impressed where you are at now.

Mr. Moriarty remarked that it is still good to have meetings with residents to hear what you want and to tell you where we are at.

Mr. Murphy stated that this is very similar to Ashland and their operating budget is \$4M.

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Mr. Moriarty added that SAU #4 should be open to the new revenue stream because they will be losing a lot if we succeed in forming our own school district.

Ms. Larochelle asked if there were any more questions or comments from the public.

Seeing none, she asked for a motion to enter executive session.

Mr. Rescigno made a motion to enter executive session and Mr. Moriarty seconded. All members present were in favor at 6:29pm.

Executive session adjourned at 7:50pm.

Ms. Larochelle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Rescigno made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Moriarty seconded. All members present were in favor and meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm