

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

November 1, 2023: Meeting called to order at 6pm
Meeting Location: Groton Town Hall

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

Ms. Larochelle called the meeting to order.

Ms. Larochelle asked for any updates to the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Larochelle asked for a motion to accept the public and executive session meeting minutes as amended to list Ms. Parker as absent from that meeting.

Mr. Moriarty moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Murphy seconded. Five in favor with one abstention from Ms. Parker.

Members had a discussion regarding the previous executive session minutes. A Motion to unseal executive session minutes from September 6, 2023 through October 18, 2023 was made by Mr. Piper and seconded by Mr. Rescigno. All were in favor.

Mr. Piper stated that until we hear otherwise from SAU #4, it may not be necessary to have executive sessions.

Ms. Parker stated that it will still be nice to have it on the agenda in case it is needed at any of our meetings.

Ms. Larochelle asked for feedback from the recent community meetings that were held in Hebron and Bridgewater.

Mr. Moriarty stated that the Hebron area meeting was well attended with 40-50 individuals and had positive results. The public now understands what the next steps are.

Mr. Murphy stated that the Bridgewater area meeting at the town hall had 75-80 individuals in attendance. Mostly positive. Few questions, but the public now understands the next steps in the process.

Discussion around moving forward instead of waiting.

Discussion of town meeting voting dates.

Education Committee updates:

Ms. Larochelle stated that they she recently met with the teachers at BHVS along with the principal and superintendent. The concern of the teachers is their current contracts will end 6/30/2024. In the current contract there is a summer work stipend that pays the teachers \$30 per hour. In addition, the school year calendar with vacations, early release, etc. would need to be discussed.

They were told we would follow up with our attorney and the committee.

The other common question is will we be able to provide the same salaries and step plans along with the same benefits.

In addition, questions were asked regarding middle school and whether it should still exist. I stated we would be moving to a k-8 model.

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Ms. Parker mentioned that we cannot help the fact that there will be change.

Mr. Piper stated all we need to provide are the answers. It may not be the same individual providing the education, but it will be the similar form of enrichment.

Mr. Rescigno said they could be positive role models showing the children how to deal with change.

Transportation updates:

Ms. Parker stated that we have received an initial outline of the number of buses that will be required and the transportation company has indicated there all set to negotiate. They have mentioned possibly parking buses on site at BHVS.

Discussions ensued regarding lack of meetings with the school board subcommittee. Ms. Parker stated that her and Mr. Piper have reach out and have had no response. Yet we still need answers regarding tailings agreement, Alexandria students and pre-K.

Mr. Piper reminded Ms. Parker that in principle they have agreed to a tailings agreement.

Mr. Murphy stated that presently the attorney has sent the following to their attorney; Tailings Agreement, Tuition Agreement and the amendment. The expiration of leas notification has been presented to the principal and the superintendent.

Discussions were made regarding moving forward or waiting on SAU #4. Consensus was to explore other options.

Mr. Piper provided some clarification that the current school board has stated that they do not budget the money. Therefore, they do not understand it will be a loss of revenue for SAU #4.

Ms. Larochelle asked for a motion to release all items to our website and forward to SAU #4 attorney and superintendent.

Ms. Parker made said motion and Mr. Rescigno seconded. All were in favor.

Facilities update:

Mr. Murphy stated that BHVD has just received the draft agreement on the two playgrounds and it is for \$220,000. They are presently waiting on a grant and will provide updates at a future meeting.

Recently finalized the work on the chimney. Have not been able to meet with the architects yet.

The open items are superintendent services, which a draft agreement is currently being drafted and a proforma budget for the new school district. We will be working on these over the next couple months.

Deborah Hart stated it's a once in a lifetime opportunity. They could submit another petitioned warrant article.

Ms. Larochelle asked if there were any other questions or comments. Seeing none she made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Rescigno seconded. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.