

# 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

September 13, 2023: Meeting called to order at 6pm

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

Ms. Larochelle called the meeting to order.

Ms. Larochelle asked for any updates to the minutes of the September 6, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Riddle and Ms. Larochelle requested a couple of changes to the executive session minutes.

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

Mr. Rescigno moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Murphy seconded.

5 approvals and 1 abstention

Ms. Larochelle asked for a motion to accept the executive session minutes as amended.

Mr. Murphy moved to accept the executive session minutes as amended. Ms. Parker seconded  
4 approvals and 2 abstentions

Roll call to seal the executive session minutes of the 9-6-23 meeting. All approved.

Ms. Larochelle requested Committee Reports from the sub committees.

A. Education Planning Committee – Ms. Larochelle stated she will have an update at the next meeting.

B. Budget Planning Committee – Mr. Piper stated that they have begun gathering figures and will have more to present in the weeks to come.

C. Contract Negotiations Committee – Ms. Parker stated that it is early on in their research and they will have a report in a couple weeks.

D. Teacher/Staff Contracts Committee – Mr. Murphy stated that a sample Tuition agreement has been drafted and collective bargaining agreements have been downloaded and are in the process of being reviewed. Additionally, there was a call with the attorney today to review some of these items and the attorney confirmed that we would be bound by the current contracts of the teachers and other professionals at the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School. What this means is; our newly formed SAU would mirror the current SAU #4 contracts in place.

Mr. Piper stated for further clarification. We need to write new contracts with all the teachers and staff. The only change would be the SAU name/number.

Mr. Murphy let the committee members know that within his research over the past week, he submitted a couple items in the committee members meeting packets. Those being the 2022 SAU 4 schools report cards from the NH Department of Education and newspaper articles from the 1960's for the original formation of the Cooperative School District.

Ms. Larochelle moved to discuss communication in each of the three towns to update the public/tax payers.

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Mr. Murphy stated that we have created a web page on the Bridgewater website specifically for the Bridgewater-Hebron-Groton Steering Committee. It is under the schools drop down on our main menu bar and we have sent a link to Hebron and Groton and they are putting links to the web page on their websites.

Mr. Moriarty stated that Hebron is planning to have a special town meeting for the vote.

Debbie Hart from Hebron asked, Will we know when this meeting is in March?

Mr. Piper stated it is the second Tuesday in March.

Mr. Murphy added that it would typically be a warrant article, but could be a ballot vote.

Debbie Hart informed the committee that she went into the Hebron Town Hall and they told her that you need to go to the Town of Bridgewater website.

Ms. Converse explained that Hebron and Groton will be adding links on their websites to the new web page on Bridgewater's website. So you will be able to access the information from any of the websites.

Mr. Moriarty suggested that we devise a timeline/outline of what will happen between now and voting in March.

Mr. Murphy suggested that all of the area meetings for public questions should happen prior to Thanksgiving. He also explained that we need to get the message out that the students will be able to finish out their schooling in the middle school or high school if they so choose, due to laws that have been put in place from other cases like ours.

Mr. Piper continued that there is even an RSA that dictates the amount that we could pay for tuition per pupil.

Mr. Murphy said our ultimate goal is to allow school choice. Currently we have 71 students from other areas.

Mark Coulson asked for the timeline and meetings, if money is involved will we have to have a capital budget meeting in Hebron.

Mr. Moriarty answered that would not be necessary for the first vote.

Mr. Murphy offered further clarification that the first vote would be yes or no. Then we would need to have another meeting to set up budget etc.

Mr. Moriarty reiterated that all the towns need a timeline to follow.

Discussion ensued around what the timeline would presently entail and when meetings would need to take place in each town. Another item was whether to have small meetings with parts of each town and whether or not to set up an email for tax payers/public to submit questions which could be answered after each meeting (if we are able to answer the specific questions at that time).

Debbie Hart asked if all the town residents in the three towns would receive email updates.

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Discussion ensued on having individuals sign up for an email list for the committee. All agreed that one repository for communication would be a good idea.

Mr. Piper stated that we have some sample agreements and contracts at this time, but we need to create an RFP for various services. All committee members agreed.

Ms. Larochelle opened the meeting up for public comment.

Debbie Hart asked for the committee to state their names and the towns they represent.

Mark Coulson stated that the nuts & bolts are import to all community members.

Debbie Hart asked if there was currently somewhere the public could send questions to.

Mr. Piper stated we will set up an email and put it on the web page. We will answer questions once a week after the committee has had time to review.

Mr. Larochelle requested a motion to go into executive session at 7:15pm. Mr. Murphy moved and Mr. Moriarty seconded and all committee members present approved. (Ms. Riddle left the meeting).

Ms. Parker voted to exit executive session at 8:00. Mr. Larochelle seconded and all committee members present approved.

Mr. Murphy suggested that the next meeting be on Wednesday September 20, 2023 at 6pm.

Mr. Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rescigno seconded and all members approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.