

Community Advisory Committee-Article 8
Meeting #4
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5pm
Via Zoom

Kirk Bishop
Michael Haxton-Chair
Steve McGrath-Vice Chair
Kevin Cooney
Anna Miner-departed at 5:50
Melissa Trow
Jim Lyons-departed at 6pm
Chris Whitehouse
Tanner Royce

MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm.

Due to an inappropriate “Zoom Bomb”, the Committee had to stop recording and re-start an entirely new ZOOM session in private. The Committee decided future meetings would be by Private Zoom since this is unavoidable with public access.

The recording of the meeting re-started after 5:15:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BVZrOwZSJbSRjAtfPOIKWbqkXkii6Fv/view?usp=sharing>

Michael attended the School Board meeting and was asked by Kerri Claus to compile questions from the Committee and submit to Russ. He requested committee members email him their lists of questions.

The committee discussed the documents included in the packet and what specifics it lacked regarding costs.

Each Subcommittee provided updates:

Tanner updated the Subcommittee 1 discussions. He stated North Branch construction is willing to review and identify safety issues and provide clear cost estimates, if welcomed to do so. This would address only fire and safety issues. Tanner is concerned about both the boilers and the fire rating of the building.

Kevin reiterated the global nature of Banwell’s work. He feels the Committee should review the list of 25-30 items and focus on what is essential before any consultants outside of EEI come in.

Michael referenced the five page list in the packet was \$10million in costs. The packet info was not found on the SAU website. Melissa will scan and send to everyone to ensure consistency. Steve McGrath also has a contact at Millstone willing to look at SCES. He and Melissa researched the previous questions surrounding Hydro plant funding and that was confirmed to be going back to the town. Steve stated he shared some Regionalization info with Chris Whitehouse. He also discussed some ideas folks had about buying some properties around the SAU building to expand the school differently without the fields.

Kevin stated the group will have many opinions shared from people and our charge is not too look at land purchases and going beyond the boundaries of the committee.

Kirk asked clarifying questions about the Waivers. Tanner stated the rooms/ space issues were overblown. Feel that Safety should be addressed first at SCES-then possible reno in the future. Michael suggested that all consultants should visit at the same time due to COVID. Melissa agreed.

Kevin reiterated that October/November is not feasible but the Committee could perhaps have a consensus and put forth a warrant article based on research and agreement.

Tanner stated he would put out his own warrant article for the boilers if we could get a cost narrowed down. He feels fire safety and the boiler needs are constantly discussed with no action taken by SAU/School Board.

Anna updated the group on Committee 2 and 3 and reiterated that Kearsarge regionalization was less emphasized. Looked at Hanover High School since they have resources pages for local sending towns and the differences among them-including costs and payment. Confirmed that cost for educating a student and tuition are different as the budget is set based on towns' children and tuition is additional revenue with set budget in place. Also clarified that entry to another district through voucher or school choice is at the discretion of the Superintendent of receiving district. Also clarified that parents have no voice in the school district when vouchering.

Kirk wants clarification on the cost savings and breakdown as it's estimated in the \$900K range-which Chris also calculated. Kirk questions costs and expectations for transportation and special services.

Chris asked what would be cut if school choice happened? Administrators, etc. What could be eliminated to save taxpayers money? He said that SMHS can socially distance 96% of students and SCES 100% of students. Melissa asked if that included everyone. Tanner said s/f is adequate but lower grades need more space than upper.

Kevin requested a code of ethics/expectations and protocols be set forth by Chair regarding statements on record and names/people involved. Steve agreed and would email Michael more specifics offline. Michael replied people have a right to their opinions and requested folks email him.

Chris mentioned that all Croydon students must be admitted by Newport and that a school as a guaranteed partners would be needed such as that example.

Michael updated Subcommittee 4 work. He wants more info on what's enrollment now, What is max number accommodated in SMHS. How would trailers work/where/space needed. Two or one cafeteria? Actual conversion cost to move SCES students to SMHS.

Meeting was set for Thursday, September 10 at 5pm. Private Zoom link will be sent to only Committee Members.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Miner
Secretary

Michael presented to the School Board that the Committee would need more time to make an effective recommendation. It was noted and will be discussed at the next School Board meeting.