

1 DRAFT

2 BOARD OF SELECTMEN

3 TOWN OF SANDOWN, NH

4 SANDOWN, NH 03873

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6 **Meeting Date: May 13, 2015**

7 **Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting**

8 **Method of Notification: Public Posting at Town Hall**

9 **Meeting Location: Town Hall**

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11 Selectman Devine called the meeting to order at 7pm.

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13 **Members Present:** Selectman Devine, Selectman Treanor, Selectman
14 Goldman arrived at 7:20, Selectwoman Bucu and Selectman Tombarello
15 arrived at 7:35pm.

16 Also Present Cathy Gorman and Arthur Green.

17 **Recording Secretary:** Sue Reynolds

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19 Pledge of Allegiance was done.

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21 This meeting is to put together a list of questions that the BOS would like to
22 ask the TRSB.

23 Arthur Green suggested deciding on a few topics the BOS would like answered
24 and then focus a few questions around each topic. Lynne Blaisdell said she is
25 concerned because the Board is going to take the time to develop the
26 questions and the Chair of the TRSB isn't going to come to a BOS meeting.

27 Selectman Tombarello said that he met with Superintendent Metzler during
28 the week to let him know that he and/or Nancy Steenson will be invited to a
29 BOS meeting and Superintendent Metzler told Selectman Tombarello that
30 neither of them will be coming. Selectman Tombarello explained that he meet
31 with Superintendent Metzler and told him that he was very disappointed in

32 the disrespect that Board members are treated with and that the Sandown
33 BOS have questions for the TRSB and he told Selectman Tombarello that they
34 will answer the questions but they will not be coming to a meeting.
35 Selectman Devine said that this meeting will take place for 1 hours and the
36 questions that will be asked will not be argumentative.
37 Selectman Devine said that he would like question 1 to be asked, which is, Will
38 the minutes of the Consolidation Committee be made available to the public
39 along with the results?
40 Selectman Devine also stated that the consolidated work is vitally important
41 to our Town and citizens as a member of the School District. Cathy Gorman
42 suggested to word things as a member of the District and not the Town as it
43 will not be entertained by the School Board.
44 Selectman Devine would like question 2 to be asked, which is, How do you
45 arrive at a non-public meeting?
46 Cathy Gorman feels their response will be that it is not a School Board
47 Committee and it is a Superintendent's Advisory Board and it is not subject to
48 the right to know. Cathy would like to know why the School Board doesn't
49 consider this a Board sanctioned Committee that is needed to produce a plan
50 based on their vote of consolidating the schools. Arthur Green feels that
51 Nancy Steensen should be able to speak to this matter as the Chairman of the
52 School Board. Selectman Tombarello suggested to talk to Kelly Ward first and
53 ask these questions to him prior to going directly to the School Board. Lynne
54 Blaisdell suggested that the BOS go to the School Board with the questions.
55 Arthur Green feels that when you have concerns you should go on record with
56 them and feels the entire School Board should be emailed. Selectman Devine
57 asked Cathy Gorman what the policy is to reach all School Board members and
58 Cathy said that policy is to email information to the School Board email
59 address and that goes directly to Nancy Steensen, the Chair of the School
60 Board and also to Superintendent Metzler. Cathy said the School Board
61 members to do not see it until it is in the correspondence folder. Selectman
62 Devine said that was unacceptable and Cathy Gorman again suggested sending
63 the information directly to all School Board members and not just to the group
64 email or only to the Chair. Lynne Blaisdell suggested the BOS ask to be put on
65 a future agenda as email is not a proper way to conduct Town business.
66 Selectman Devine suggests developing the questions now and sending them to
67 the School Board ahead of time so they have time to review them before the
68 BOS attend a School District meeting. Arthur Green refers to Danville wanting
69 to speak on the impact fees of their Town and they were told they could come

70 to a meeting and speak during public input and there was no interaction from
71 the School Board. Arthur Green said after a period of time the Danville
72 representative was invited back to speak during the School Board meeting.
73 Selectman Goldman has arrived.
74 Selectman Devine asked when the report is due and Arthur Green said on May
75 21st Superintendent Metzler will be making recommendations to the School
76 Board with taking into consideration the information presented by the
77 Advisory Committee. Arthur continued to say that he heard that at time the
78 Committee's report is going to be released but he is not sure if this will be the
79 report from the Committee or it will be altered by the Superintendent first.
80 Selectman Goldman said that the report is due on May 20th and
81 Superintendent Metzler will have the Committee make the presentation
82 themselves on the 21st. Selectman Devine said he'd like to be on that agenda
83 under correspondence. Cathy Gorman asked what the legal ramifications are
84 if the meetings were supposed to be held in public. Selectman Devine said
85 nothing, it has already taken place and the BOS need to wait until it is
86 presented to the School Board and decide if they want to challenge it or not.
87 Selectman Goldman suggested to state their displeasure with the way the
88 meetings were held without minutes and not in public and they would like
89 this not to continue.
90 Selectwoman Bucu has arrived.
91 Selectman Devine said he would sit with Lynne to develop the rest of the
92 questions and comments. Selectwoman Bucu said the questions as written
93 were just a rough draft and would expect some of the wording to be changed.
94 Cathy Gorman said she would like to know the recommendations moving
95 forward as they came from the committee. She also said he received an email
96 from Nancy Steensen saying any and all documents produced by the
97 Committee were available to the public. Selectman Goldman said they need to
98 wait to see what happens with the report being released first and he also said
99 there hasn't been any talk that he aware of about the report not being
100 released. Selectman Tombarello said he has recommendations for questions
101 2-5. He said for question 2, it should read, How may superintendent advisory
102 committee's will undercut the responsibility of the School Board and do you
103 plan to put an end to that? Selectman Goldman doesn't feel this needs to be
104 asked as Selectman Devine has a statement in regards to the BOS being
105 displeased with the way the meetings have been run and what is the
106 policy/oversight going forward? Question 3, Cathy Gorman suggested to add
107 what were the recommendations from the Advisory Committee opposed to

108 the recommendations being presented. Selectman Goldman feels that
109 Question 4 is ok except to remove Can the town of Sandown expect the same
110 treatment as they will be speaking to them at that time. Question 5, The BOS
111 agree to leave this question as is. Selectman Tombarello thinks that Question
112 6 is ok except to remove “an agenda that you can control”. Arthur Green feels
113 it dilutes the impact of what the BOS are doing if they bring in issues with how
114 the School District runs their meetings. Selectman Goldman agrees with
115 Arthur Green and feels that Question 6 may need to be removed. Selectman
116 Devine said this is not a Home Rule State. Cathy Gorman wants to know how
117 the Town of Sandown gets their questions answered. Arthur Green says there
118 is a much bigger problem which is, Is Sandown’s representation being
119 adequately attended to by the School Board, given Mrs. Green’s inability to get
120 answers to the questions she has asked. He is very concerned as Sandown’s
121 representation is being undercut by the lack of respect that is provided to the
122 questions that are being asked by the elected representative. He feels this is
123 very pertinent for the BOS to ask the School Board when they attend a
124 meeting. Cathy Gorman suggested to send the final questions to Donna Green
125 and Kelly Ward and cc the School Board chair and let her know you are
126 addressing your School Board Representatives via correspondence that will
127 appear in the correspondence folder. She suggests telling them you want the
128 questions raised at the School Board meeting as a concern. Arthur Green also
129 suggests to cc the entire School Board as well. Selectman Goldman feels this is
130 a good idea and maybe Donna and Kelly can work together on the questions
131 prior to the next School Board meeting. Selectman Devine said this will be
132 brought up again at the next BOS meeting to finalize the questions and come
133 up with a format as to how they will be delivered. Selectman Devine asked if
134 the BOS would like to invite Kelly Ward and Donna Green to the next BOS
135 meeting to discuss the questions and Selectman Goldman said yes as long as
136 they know what the questions are going to be. Arthur Green said Donna has a
137 prior commitment on Monday nights so she would not be able to make the
138 meeting but he is sure she would be willing to raise the questions. The BOS
139 will draft a letter to Kelly Ward and Donna Green and will be cc’d to the School
140 Board via mail and email. Donna Green and Kelly Ward will also be invited to
141 the next BOS meeting. Lynne said there is no need for them to come in if the
142 Board is sending them a letter. It was suggested that they know ahead of time
143 that the letter is coming. Selectman Buco said none of this should be
144 questions as a plan should have been in place prior to it being put on the
145 warrant. She said when she asked this question to Legal Counsel the final

146 response was “the district administration had a duty to plan out how it would
147 educate Sandown children before placing an article on the warrant”. She said
148 all of this controversy is a direct reflect of how this was managed from the
149 beginning and feels it was a big failure. Tony Piemonte said he was the one
150 that created the article and it has been over 60 days and he hasn’t heard
151 anything yet and Selectman Devine said they have 180 days and it starts once
152 the Committee is formed, and that will be tomorrow night. Selectman Bucu
153 said they just got the meeting agenda today. Selectman Bucu read the email
154 that she wrote to Nancy Steensen to the BOS along with her response, which
155 was Selectman Bucu letting Nancy Steensen know that she was going to be on
156 the Feasibility Study Committee and she was interested in the work from the
157 Consolidation Committee as it will affect the Feasibility study and Sandown
158 residents. She also asked her for the minutes of the Consolidation Committee
159 meetings or where she can find them on line as they have already met a few
160 times and she also asked when the next meeting was so that she could attend
161 and get the information for herself without having to obtain minutes from
162 someone else. Nancy’s response was that the Consolidation Committee is not
163 a Board Committee she has no authority over it and she doesn’t have the
164 answers to her questions as she is not on that Committee. She continued to
165 say that it is an Advisory Committee to the Superintendent and the minutes
166 cannot be found online nor is the public invited to attend because they are not
167 public meetings, nor are they subject to the same policies and RSA’s as both
168 committees. Selectwoman Bucu said this is the complete opposite of an email
169 that she received from Kelly Ward saying that all of the meetings were public.
170 Cathy Gorman said she is concerned as there is no School Board oversight to
171 this committee. Selectman Goldman referred to an email he received by Kelly
172 Ward on April 24th that said that all meetings were held in public as no one
173 voted to keep the meetings non-public. He went on to say that the public was
174 always welcome to attend as well as all documents created were made public.
175 Selectman Goldman said he didn’t think the minutes were ever posted and if
176 they were public meetings he would have expected minutes and doesn’t think
177 there are any. Selectman Goldman said he attended the Committee’s second
178 meeting and remembered a discussion on keeping the information non-public
179 because there were concerns about the committee talking about potentially
180 changing classrooms, etc. and having teachers getting upset as this was just in
181 the talking stages.
182 Selectman Devine said that he and Lynne will sit down and develop the
183 questions and they will be presented to the BOS at the next meeting for

184 review. Once the letter is written it will go out to the Sandown
185 Representatives, Kelly Ward and Donna Green and the Board will move
186 forward. He thanks Cathy Gorman, Arthur Green and Tony Piemont form
187 coming to the meeting. Arthur Green said he would like to plan to be at the
188 BOS meeting and give his input on the questions as well.

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190 Cathy Gorman asked the BOS if they are planning to attend the next School
191 Board meeting. She feels it would be good if the Board and residents were
192 there.

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194 Motion to adjourn.

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196 Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

197 Respectfully submitted

198 Sue Reynolds