

1 DRAFT

2 BOARD OF SELECTMEN

3 TOWN OF SANDOWN, NH

4 SANDOWN, NH 03873

5  
6 **Meeting Date: August 17, 2015**

7 **Type of Meeting: Special 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 7:00pm.

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13 **Members Present:** Selectman Devine, Selectman Treanor, Selectman  
14 Goldman, and Selectwoman Buco.

15 **Not Present:** Selectman Tombarello  
16 Town Administrator: Lynne Blaisdell  
17 Recording Secretary: Sue Reynolds

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19  
20 Pledge of Allegiance was done.

21  
22 Discussion regarding Town of Sandown et al v. Timberlane Regional School  
23 District 218-2015-CV-0076

24  
25 Selectman Devine is disappointed in the decision of the court and wonders if  
26 the judge read the agreement as there are many items in the documents that  
27 should be reconsidered. Selectwoman Buco feels the Town has a case and  
28 should file for reconsideration and is willing to provide a more detailed  
29 outline as to the chain of events that took place. Lynne Blaisdell said although  
30 sufficient time was given to hear the case it was not a full trial. Selectman  
31 Devine said the first thing the judge said before he heard the case was that he

32 is not familiar with School law and is disappointed in listing Sandown's name  
33 as Sanborn within the report provided. Selectman Devine refers to the  
34 operating costs and Selectwoman Bucu said the MS27 has no detail. She also  
35 said that the reason there funding for the students is because the student cost  
36 moves with them, what they don't have is money in the budget to run that  
37 school. Lynne said they don't break out the amounts by school on the MS27  
38 and Selectman Goldman asked if the budget is only the MS27 and Lynne said  
39 she wondered the same thing. Lynne feels that the sub lines could be zeroed  
40 out but it wouldn't necessarily affect that budget line item. Selectman Devine  
41 said that there was a 1/2 a million dollars zeroed out so there is zero funding  
42 for the school in this budget. Lynne also said this was presented to the voters  
43 at public hearings and voters were told that if they vote no on the article the  
44 school would be closed. Selectwoman Bucu agrees and feels this is a strong  
45 case for reconsideration. Selectman Goldman agrees but is nervous as to what  
46 is going to happen in the future and asks what good will come out of it if the  
47 decision isn't made until January. Selectwoman Bucu said she would like to  
48 pull additional information and a timeline together as to what happened and  
49 represent it to the attorney. Selectman Devine also stated his concern in  
50 regards to meetings being held in non-public and recommendations being  
51 made to the superintendent without the public knowing. Selectman Goldman  
52 refers to the statement that the judge not need decide if he superintendent's  
53 advisory committee is a public body within the RSA and Selectwoman Bucu  
54 said the judge does need to decide this as he was asked to decide this as well  
55 as addressing the Right to Know Law.

56

## 57 **NEW BUSINESS**

58 Selectman Goldman said he would like to change his mind and ask the BOS to  
59 reconsider meeting with the Feasibility and Suitability Withdrawal Study  
60 Committee and also to meet with the Minority Committee to give an update to  
61 the Board as to where they are at with their study. He said he has received a  
62 numerous amount of phone calls this week in regards to this and he would  
63 like to get some answers from the Committees. Selectman Devine said the  
64 Majority Committee has a responsibility to complete the report and doesn't  
65 feel a meeting at this point with either Committee would be beneficial.  
66 Selectman Goldman is extremely concerned because according to the RSA  
67 once the report is completed by the Majority Committee it is submitted to the  
68 Board of Education and they will decide whether or not to put forth by ballot  
69 to the voters of the district and at no point can Sandown ask not to have this

70 happen. He said he is extremely concerned that Sandown will not have a  
71 change to revisit this at a later date. He also feels that the petitioner of the  
72 article wrote the article as a study only and not to move forward with the  
73 withdrawal from the District at this time. Selectwoman Buco asked what  
74 Selectman Goldman would like to see come out of the meetings because she  
75 feels the BOS has no control over the study being completed. She also said  
76 that if the Committee's find it suitable for Sandown to withdraw they will have  
77 better options that shouldn't be a concern. Selectwoman Buco said there is  
78 not enough information from the Committee's to report at this time.  
79 Arthur Greene said he wishes that the cameras were on this evening for this  
80 meeting as we are learning that we have a School District that Rob Collins  
81 stated that he is all for the good of the children, is prepared to threaten a  
82 Town by saying even if they know it is not feasible and suitable they have a  
83 majority of vote and the committee is quite prepared to write a  
84 recommendation that says that is feasible and suitable to put a price tag on  
85 that of 6 million dollars and to put it to the Board of Education with a  
86 withdrawal plan. Arthur Greene continues to say that it is unbelievable that  
87 Sandown is a part of this type of school district and that alone is reason  
88 enough to run mile from the district. Selectman Goldman said that is exactly  
89 what he is afraid of and Arthur Greene responded and said it is a fantasy and  
90 this should speak volumes as to what type of people we are dealing with. Rich  
91 Buco feels the district is being misleading and doesn't answer to anyone. He  
92 also feels that the judge needs to be educated and have knowledge in school  
93 law. He feels like the school district is being a bully in this situation and feels  
94 they should not be allowed to run over the Town of Sandown.  
95 Selectman Devine stated that years ago when he was on the Board there were  
96 4,800 kids in the system and the budget was 6.6 million and now there are  
97 3,800 kids in the system and the budget is 74 million.

98  
99 **Motion by** Selectwoman Buco to go into non-public under RSA91-A:3II(e)  
100 litigation and (a) employee matters.

101 **Seconded by** Selectman Goldman.

102 **Roll Call**, Selectwoman Buco – yes, Selectman Goldman – yes, Selectman  
103 Devine – yes and Selectman Treanor – yes.

104 **Motion passes unanimously.**

105

106 Selectman Devine announced that the minutes of the non –public were sealed  
107 while in the non-public session.

108 Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm  
109 Respectfully submitted  
110 Sue Reynolds