

1 DRAFT

2 BOARD OF SELECTMEN

3 TOWN OF SANDOWN, NH

4 SANDOWN, NH 03873

5  
6 **Meeting Date: October 15, 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 **Members Present:** Selectman Devine, Selectman Treanor, Selectman  
12 Goldman, Selectwoman Bucu and Selectman Tombarello.

13 Town Administrator: Lynne Blaidsell

14 **Recording Secretary:** Sue Reynolds

15  
16 Selectman Devine called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

17  
18 Pledge of Allegiance was done.

19  
20 Selectman Devine explained that there will be a presentation this evening in  
21 regards to what is needed to send to the BOE and there will be no public  
22 comment this evening. He stated on October 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting for  
23 public input.

24 Selectman Tombarello referred to the meeting at the PAC on Tuesday evening  
25 and made a **Motion for** the Chairman to poll the BOS this evening to see how  
26 they feel about allowing public comment.

27 **Seconded by** Selectman Treanor.

28 Selectman Tombarello asked that Mark Sherwood be allowed to speak on  
29 behalf of his committee and there were others in the audience that asked to  
30 speak as well.

32 ***In Favor***, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Devine, Selectman Goldman and  
33 Selectman Treanor.

34 ***Abstain***, Selectwoman Bucu.

35 ***Motion passes 4-0-1***

36

37 ***Motion by*** Selectman Goldman to amend the previous motion to allow for a 15  
38 minute public comment.

39 ***Seconded by*** Selectman Treanor

40 ***In Favor***, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Devine, Selectman Goldman,  
41 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Bucu.

42 ***Motion passes unanimously.***

43

44 Selectman Devine also said if there is any disturbance this evening he will ask  
45 you to stop, the second time he will ask for Chief Gordon's help and if there is  
46 a third time you will be arrested and escorted out of the building.

47

48 Selectwoman Bucu presented the overview slide of the presentation in  
49 regards to what feasibility and suitability means. She said there is a question  
50 in regards to the buyout amount being feasible and feels this is a measure of  
51 contention in regards to this area. In regards to suitability she is asking for a  
52 qualifier for the Town of Sandown to vote solely on the withdrawing from the  
53 District and not having it go to a District wide vote. She said these two areas  
54 are still under review and will be addressed She reviewed the timeline, which  
55 listed that Sandown voted in favor of Warrant Article 19 in March, on  
56 November 13<sup>th</sup> the Minority Report and Majority Report are due to the BOE,  
57 and March 8<sup>th</sup> if the qualifier is accepted then Sandown would have a town  
58 vote either to recommend or not recommend the withdrawal plan to the BOE  
59 and March 2017 would be the vote for withdrawal. She said this is a  
60 preliminary plan and it will be brought back before the BOS in the next week  
61 and a half.

62 Michael Costanzo will be speaking on the plan for Sandown's education and  
63 how the organizational structure would look like if this was found feasible and  
64 suitable.

65 Selectman Tombarello is concerned that Mike Costanzo is a former member of  
66 the disbanded committee and recommends that Selectwoman Bucu present  
67 the entire presentation this evening. He also stated that Arthur Green was not  
68 a member of that committee, but attended all of the meetings and is not  
69 comfortable with him doing part of the presentation either. Selectman Devine

70 said that Selectwoman Bucu can call upon any assistance needed to make the  
71 presentation and those whom she chose will be doing the presentation.

72  
73 Michael Costanzo reviewed the educational plan for the Town of Sandown and  
74 said that he is looking for feedback on what he is presenting. He said the  
75 proposed plan would allow Sandown to have 3 distinct schools, lower  
76 elementary, upper elementary and a Jr. High School by using the 2 buildings  
77 in town. His proposal has Sandown Central housing grades Pre K – 3, Sandown  
78 North would house grades 4-6 on one wing and grades 7&8 on the other wing.  
79 He reviewed the organizational chart with a teaching headmaster at the top,  
80 with each school having their own vice principal. He is proposing to have 3  
81 directors, one for special education and supplemental services, a director of  
82 facilities and a director of technology. He stated Sandown Central would be  
83 used to house half the preschool and half the kindergarten program along  
84 with grades 1-3 and for moderate to severe disability special education  
85 program as well as the administration team. He stated Sandown Central  
86 needs a functional kitchen and cafeteria space for the students to eat lunch  
87 and he talked about repartitioning the classroom space and grounds work  
88 would need to be done as well. He referred to Sandown North with A wing  
89 housing the 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade and specialists and C wing would house 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade as  
90 a Jr. High model with labs on that wing as well. He said all students would be  
91 provided with chrome books for learning. He referred to the proposed floor  
92 plan which was color coded. He stated that the improvements to this school  
93 would be the sprinkler system and cistern for that, the labs would be created  
94 and they would need to upgrade the gym and locker rooms. He also said the  
95 parking area, drop off area need to be upgraded and there needs to be athletic  
96 fields added as well. He would like to retain the access road for emergency  
97 purposes only. He said the committee did a comparison with other area high  
98 schools and listed out what they have to offer and presented a transition plan,  
99 which is all included on paper in the presentation that was handed to the BOS.  
100 Arthur Green is presenting the School District Governance portion of the  
101 presentation. He said Sandown would have its own School Board which  
102 would consist of a 5 member board and fall under the SAU55, modeling  
103 Hampstead. He is recommending the town Budget Committee would then  
104 take responsibility for the School Budget Committee as well. The proposal  
105 lays out specific expectations in regards to the relationship between SAU55  
106 and the Town of Sandown. He said we would be a SB2 town, and have a  
107 separate deliberative for the school as there is for the town now. He talked

108 about tuitioning students to Pinkerton HS the Sandown School Board wouldn't  
109 have a governance over the High School but we would be a customer to the  
110 High School and we would have a relationship with Pinkerton that would  
111 include Pinkerton officials visiting the Sandown School Board. He also said  
112 that Pinkerton makes it a practice of recruiting a community of the sending  
113 towns, which is not the same as a governance interest. In regards to the  
114 buyout Arthur Green states because of the capital improvements paid by the  
115 Town of Sandown feels there would not be an amount owed, however he said  
116 the district is paying money to have this research done so the numbers are  
117 just estimates at this point. Selectman Tombarello asks Arthur Green to just  
118 stick to the information presented on the slides and not give his personal  
119 opinion in between. Selectman Goldman confirms that what Arthur Green  
120 said is that the Town of Sandown paid 11 million dollars on improvements in  
121 the Town and estimating the 15 million dollars that was paid and Arthur said  
122 the 15 million is not an estimate it is an amount from the annual reports.  
123 Arthur also said they will be asking the BOE's direction as to which buyout  
124 number is correct. Arthur stated there is a 2 million dollar surplus each year  
125 and 26% of that belongs to the Town of Sandown which we should receive a  
126 half a million dollars at the time of withdrawal. He refers to the Capital  
127 Reserve fund having 1.5 million dollars, in which Sandown would be eligible  
128 to receive  $\frac{1}{4}$  of that amount as well. Arthur presented a cost & tax impact  
129 slide and explains the cost per pupil and how this will affect the tax rate over  
130 the next few years.

131 Selectwoman Bucu again referred to the feasibility threshold and the qualifier  
132 for Sandown to be the ones to vote on the withdrawal and not the entire  
133 district. She said there is a lot to consider as there is a lot of information being  
134 presented but she wanted the BOS to see a preliminary plan to be able to  
135 begin to understand the potential options for the Town. She said she would  
136 like to review the educational statistics for the high schools at the next  
137 meeting. She said there are an additional slides for the BOS to review in  
138 regards to the cost per pupil and what the tax impact would look like.

139 Mark Sherwood resident of Sandown stated this started with Article 19 as just  
140 a study without costing the Town any money. Mark read the Article verbatim  
141 to point out that there is no option there to have Sandown be the only town to  
142 vote on being removed from the District. He encourages the public not to be  
143 misled by Selectwoman Bucos comments as they were misled during  
144 deliberative session when we were told this would just be a study and there  
145 would be no cost associated or no action taken to leave the district. He said

146 after months of review the people have spoken and the Majority Committee  
147 completed the study and found it not suitable nor feasible for Sandown to  
148 leave the district. Mark Sherwood referred the Chairman beginning the  
149 meeting with the words “our vision of the future and we feel there are some  
150 things that need to be addressed” which suggests where the stars align. He  
151 also states that when 1 person finds their opinion outweighs that of the  
152 others, this is not the democratic process he was brought up in. Selectman  
153 Devine stated that the democratic process was followed and there is a process  
154 to override the chairman, which was not used. He said they follow Robert’s  
155 rules and how to proceed and when the chairman is out of order there is a  
156 process to overrule the chairman’s decision and that was not done at that  
157 meeting. Mark Sherwood referred to The Pledge of Allegiance and to the  
158 republic and feels that one person’s opinion does not override the views of the  
159 majority. Mark refers to the letter dated April 1, 2015 from the town’s  
160 attorney stating the Town is not required by law to create a minority report  
161 and he asks the BOS to vote tonight to submit a letter to the BOE stating that it  
162 is not suitable nor feasible to leave this district. Tina Buckley retired teacher  
163 from TRHS and says that everyone should keep an open mind as knowledge is  
164 power and don’t close your mind to the information just because you don’t  
165 like where it is coming from. Fred Riley, a resident of Sandown has been a  
166 taxpayer for over 40 years and is concerned about the education and he is  
167 interested in saving money in taxes instead of paying the taxes he can’t afford.  
168 Mike Harnois, a resident of Sandown said he is not opposed to the information  
169 being presented but he is opposed to how it is being presented. He stated that  
170 Selectwoman Bucu was on the Majority Committee and didn’t present any of  
171 this information on the several occasions she was asked to do so. He said  
172 there was a committee put together to explore this option and feels this is  
173 misleading representation and feels it is too late for this to be presented.  
174 Selectwoman Bucu stated that at one of the Majority meetings she did bring  
175 up the idea of repurposing Sandown North and suggests for him to go back to  
176 the tape as it may not be in the minutes and somehow they began talking  
177 about Sandown Central instead. Marie Vanderhoof is a teacher at Sandown  
178 North and doesn’t think there is enough room to accommodate the proposed  
179 plan and she is also concerned that the district has worked really hard to align  
180 the education with all of the transitions the children need to make between  
181 schools up until they graduate and doesn’t see how that will continue with  
182 this plan. Selectwoman Bucu stated that Hampstead does a fine job with their  
183 format tuitioning into Pinkerton. Jennifer Silva, resident of Sandown stated

184 that the other Sandown representative isn't here but has submitted a letter  
185 and she offered to read it. Selectman Devine said the BOS have a copy of the  
186 letter and it will be read at the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Sharon ?? TRSD teacher  
187 and asks how the district will handle outsourcing a special education child at  
188 the cost of \$120,000.00. Selectman Devine said that question will be  
189 answered at the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cathy ???, resident of Sandown wants  
190 to know what the driving force is to leave a district that has won the School of  
191 Excellence award in 2014 and test scores are increasing every year.  
192 Selectman Tombarello stated that the meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> the BOS meeting  
193 ended abruptly and he was going to read a letter that evening. He states that  
194 he does not feel comfortable making decisions for plans for withdrawal and  
195 will wait until the October 13<sup>th</sup> public hearing to make his decision on  
196 withdrawing from the district. He said it is now October 15<sup>th</sup> and this article  
197 has wrecked friendships and has neighbors feuding and spending upwards of  
198 \$20,000.00 of taxpayer money for legal advice.

199 **Motion by** Selectman Tombarello to inform the Department of Education by  
200 letter that the Town of Sandown will not be submitting a Minority Report on  
201 the Feasibility and Suitability of withdrawing from the TRSD.

202 **Seconded by** Selectman Goldman.

203 **In Favor,** Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman and Selectman Treanor.

204 **Opposed** Selectman Devine and Selectwoma Buco.

205 **Motion passes 3-2-0.**

206

207 Selectman Goldman said that he is interested in seeing the Minority Report  
208 completed and even posted on the Town website so the public can compare  
209 both reports if Selectwoman Buco is ok with that. She said the work will be  
210 completed so the residents of the Town can see the options. Joe Morris,  
211 member of the public asks the BOS to make a motion that this not revisited  
212 and Selectman Goldman there is a possibility this can come up again as next  
213 year is a new year. Gordon Champion was furious and feels like 700 voters  
214 were disenfranchised. Mark Sherwood stated that the study was done as the  
215 warrant article stated.

216 **Motion by** Selectman Goldman that the BOS formerly makes a decision to not  
217 submit a withdrawal or minority report on behalf of the Town.

218 **Seconded by** Selectman Treanor.

219 Selectwoman Buco doesn't feel that the BOS should be making this decision on  
220 behalf of the entire Town that voted for the study to be conducted and feels  
221 there is another side that is not being represented.

222 ***In Favor***, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Goldman and Selectman Treanor.  
223 ***Opposed*** Selectman Devine and Selectwoma Buco.  
224 ***Motion passes 3-2-0.***

225  
226  
227 Proposal for the new copier for the Town.  
228 Lynne said that she received quotes for the new copier and was going to wait  
229 to bring it to the BOS next week but the copier died yesterday and she needs  
230 to get a new one. She said he has 3 quotes on this and feels comfortable with  
231 accepting the quote from Seacoast Business for a new color copier. She said  
232 she would like to call them and negotiate a few items within the agreement.  
233 She said there is \$2,900.00 left in this year's budget on the maintenance line  
234 and can use this for part of the new copier. Lynne said the contract states it is  
235 \$121.00 per month lease plus \$50.00 for copies made and .05 per color copies.  
236 The consensus of the BOS is to allow Lynne to contact Seacoast and negotiate  
237 a contract for a new color copier.

238  
239 Lynne said she scanned and emailed information for the BOS meeting on  
240 Monday evening and she will make copies on Monday prior to the meeting.

241  
242 Selectman Tombarello asked if they were going to hold the public hearing on  
243 October 26<sup>th</sup> and Selectman Devine said yes the discussion will continue on  
244 that day. Selectman Goldman said from a selectman's point the discussion  
245 should be over as the BOS made a motion tonight that it is not feasible nor  
246 suitable to withdraw and to send a letter to the BOE stating that and  
247 Selectman Devine said he does not agree that the discussion is over. Lynne  
248 Blaisdell asked what the public hearing is for and why have the public ask  
249 questions if there is no intent on filing a report and Selectman Devine said  
250 there are other questions that need to be answered and feels the 699 voters  
251 need to have a say. Selectman Goldman feels because the BOS made the  
252 motion and it passed the letter needs to go to the BOE and the discussion  
253 should be over. Selectman Devine again stated they will have a public hearing  
254 on October 26<sup>th</sup> and Selectman Treanor said he will not be at that meeting and  
255 Selectman Goldman said he will not be able to attend either, but sent an email  
256 stating so earlier in the week.

257 ***Motion by*** Selectman Tombarello to adjourn.  
258 ***Seconded by*** Selectman Treanor.

259 ***In Favor***, Selectman Tombarello, Selectman Devine, Selectman Goldman,  
260 Selectman Treanor and Selectwoman Buco.

261 ***Motion passes unanimously***

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263

264 Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

265

266 Respectfully submitted

267 Sue Reynolds