

**Sandown Feasibility of Withdrawal from TRSD Minority Committee
Meeting Minutes (Final)**

Date: Wednesday May 20, 2015

Members Present:

Cindy Buco
Tony Piemonte
Donna Green
Cathy Gorman
Paula Martin
Michael Costanzo
David Darrah

Members Absent:

Bruce Cleveland
Lisa Tapley

Meeting Called to Order: 7:10 PM

Organization:

Selection of Officers

David Darrah was appointed to the committee by consensus.
Cindy Buco was nominated for the position of Chair by Cathy Gorman, seconded by Donna Green. Unanimous vote in favor.
Cathy Gorman was nominated for the position of Vice-Chair by Tony Piemonte, seconded by David Darrah. Unanimous vote in favor.

Establish committees and designate committee leads

Educational Plan subcommittee

David Darrah was nominated as lead by Cathy Gorman, seconded by Tony Piemonte. Accepted by consensus.
Other members: Donna Green, Michael Costanzo
David, Donna, Michael, Cathy G nominates David Darrah as lead, tony seconds

Financial Plans subcommittee

Lead person TBD
Other Members: Bruce Cleveland, Cathy Gorman

Governance and Administration subcommittee

Lead Tony Piemonte
Other members: David Darrah, Cathy Gorman, Michael Costanzo
Discussion of mandate:

Donna Green: plan needs to include the plan for how the school board is organized, how the new district would be administered, also the effect on structure of the remaining cooperative board

Public Communication and Consultation subcommittee

Lead person: Cathy Gorman
Other members: Tony Piemonte, Paula Martin
Discussion of mandate
Debbie Rose (public):How will public be involved?

Cindy Bucu: short notice of this meeting is because the minority committee needed an organizational meeting to be operational. The committee plans to organize town halls to communicate with the residents. The town has given the committee a page on the town web site, all the documents will be posted.

Stefanie Dube (Danville): learned about the meeting on Friends of Timberlane Facebook page, asked how things will be communicated in future.

Cathy Gorman: Commented that she wants to pull in public questions and concerns, and provide info through Facebook and link to it on the town web site

Governmental Liaison subcommittee

Lead Person: David Darrah

Other members: Michael Costanzo, Paula Martin

Discussion of mandate:

Liaison with DOE, State Board of Education and SAU.

Plan for public posting of committee materials

General discussion:

posting on town web site

can material be mailed? We don't have a budget for it

news releases to Tri-Town, rotational Letter To The Editor

update town web site with member email addresses – Donna Green is collecting

ask town for 1 email distribution list which goes to all members

Follow-up assigned to the Public Communication and Consultation subcommittee

Plan for management of committee meetings

Cathy Gorman moved that working meetings are limited to 2 hours

Seconded by David Darrah

In Favor: Bucu, Gorman, Piemonte, Costanzo, Martin, Darrah

Opposed: Green

Motion Passed.

Public comment:

Donna Green: always feels that public comment helps deliberation, and we need to distinguish ourselves from other organizations with a different culture.. Monthly town hall is excellent, but doesn't want to limit public comment at the working meetings

Paula Martin: Suggest public comment as final 20 minutes of each meeting, with index cards available for residents to indicate intent, along with topic or question

David Darrah: questions from public can be assigned to the appropriate subcommittee

Consensus conclusion: Public comment at the end of each meeting, 20 minutes allocated overall, 3 minutes per person, with flexibility at the discretion of the chair to give extra time so all who wish can comment.

Index cards to be provided for sign up – name and topic/question

Donna Green: current meeting is set up with sign up sheets for comment similar to SB meetings. Do we wish to have public comment at this time?

Consensus was to move public comment to follow the review of timeline and RSAs.

Timeline and plan:

Cindy Bucu: Read WA 19

The school district has set up people to do the majority committee, but have not taken responsibility for it. That committee did not feel it necessary to allow any additional residents on the committee.

David Darrah: The town has a right to form a committee separate from the majority committee

Cathy Gorman: There is a lot of misinformation on Facebook.

If the minority committee agrees with the majority report, then the minority committee does not need to submit a minority report the reason we need to form the committee is because we also need to submit on the same deadline

Cindy Bucu: Setting this up to get the facts, not because we necessarily want to withdraw

Overview of RSAs 195:25 - 29

Schedule of committee meetings

Consensus for Tuesday meetings if practical

Cindy to check availability of town hall, book the meeting dates

Committee leads will be responsible for establishing schedule of committee meetings

Public Comment

Heidi Chaput: Does the plan go before Sandown before it goes to the full district

Cathy Gorman: The selectmen could hold a town ballot, which is up to the selectmen

Heidi Chaput: Expressed concern that the district vote means 3 other towns voting on what happens to us

Cathy Gorman: 3 other towns just voted to close our schools .. this is what happens when you vote on something without a plan

want to get solid information and feedback from the town as a whole

other towns have withdrawn despite higher costs to get a better quality of education

Heidi Chaput: It would be good if more members of the committee had children in the district

Dave Darrah: People without kids have no emotional bias. We are all very concerned about a good education

Paula Martin: Parents will be welcome to participate

Jen Dube: Even if feasible, if the majority of town don't want it, it doesn't have to happen.

It doesn't seem fair that we don't have more of a say before it goes to the other towns if the majority of the committee decides it is both suitable and feasible

Dave Darrah: If the BOE agrees with the minority, that could sway the other towns

Stefanie Dube, Danville: Hopefully in some way Danville could be involved, because taxes are high there also.

Donna Green: Suggests that we have formal liaison to Danville.

Michael Costanzo: That's the point of the majority committee, so its more important to

keep focused on Sandown, and use the majority committee.

Paula Martin: Couldn't Danville person volunteer on subcommittee?

Donna Green: Why not participate on the communications committee

Cathy Gorman: As outgoing communication to other towns

Donna Green: And we do have to communicate with all four towns

Draft Outline of the Study Report

Arthur Green review a draft outline of the study report in the meeting minutes. A more detailed outline will be posted on the town website with the working documents.

Information Requirements to be communicated to TRSD

This item was deferred to the respective subcommittees for research and action

Action items

Donna Green summarized:

Talk to town about setting up group email – Cathy Gorman

Contact list established and communicated – Cathy Gorman

Facebook – assigned to communications committee

Schedule of committee meetings with preference for Tuesdays, booking town hall –

Cindy Buco

Subcommittee schedule – to be established by subcommittee leads

Draft outline on web site – Arthur Green to provide to Cathy Gorman

Adjourn 9:10