

**NEWRY WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, December 17, 2015**

Present: **Committee members:** Jim Sysko (Chair), William Andrews, Gary Wight
Educational consultant: Dr. Mark Eastman **Legal consultant:** Dan Stockford
Community members: Alison Aloisio, Brooks Morton, Tama Drown
Late: Bonnie Largess,
Absent:

Open Session Proceedings:

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair, Jim Sysko.

The minutes of the December 3rd meeting were reviewed. **William Andrew moved for acceptance of the minutes as distributed; Gary Wight seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Citizens' Comments: Jim noted that comments may be made at any time during the meeting.

Old Business:

- a) **Financial Status:** Jim distributed the financial update to those in attendance. The report shows that the committee has \$10,645.44 remaining as of December 15, 2015. The balance includes the payment of Dan's latest bill; however, the bill from the mediator has not yet been received and therefore, will come out of this balance. This invoice is expected to be approximately 5 hours at \$175 per hour.
- b) **December 9, 2015 Letter from SAD 44 Withdrawal Committee to the Commissioner of Education (public record):** The letter was from Laney Cross and Marcel Polak to the COE presenting the SAD 44 withdrawal committee's point of view about NWC "not having a quorum". The NWC discussed their surprise with this letter since the SAD 44 committee had only sent Marcel, David Murphy & their attorney to the first few negotiation meetings. Dan noted that the law states that, in terms of negotiations, the parties each can designate their own representatives to negotiation on their behalf. This committee designated Gary Wight and Jim Sysko to be their negotiators. The committee discussed a number of untruths contained in the letter. A response letter will be discussed in Executive Session.

New Business:

- a) **Executive Session:** William moved to enter executive session to meet with legal counsel to discuss the rights and duties of the committee and negotiating strategies pursuant to 1MRS Section 4056E. Bonnie seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The executive session began at 5:25 and ended at 6:25pm.
- b) **Letter to SAD 44 Withdrawal Committee requesting a good-faith counterproposal that does not require abandonment of the withdrawal effort:** Bonnie moved, Gary seconded, and the committee voted unanimously on the approval of the letter, with committee revisions, to be sent to the SAD 44 withdrawal committee. This letter asks for a good faith proposal by the end of January 2016. Also as part of this vote the committee authorized Jim as chair to send a letter to the DOE Acting Commissioner Beardsley challenging the truthfulness of a letter sent to the commissioner by Marcel Polak on December 9th.
- c) **Date for next meeting:** TBD.

Adjournment – Following executive session, Bonnie moved to adjourn; Gary seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.