

**NEWRY WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday, December 18, 2014**

**Present:** Jim Sysko (Chair), Bonnie Largess, William Andrews, Brooks Morton,  
Dr. Mark Eastman (Education Consultant), Dan Stockford (Attorney)

**Absent:**

**Late:**

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**Open Session Proceedings:**

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Chair, Jim Sysko.

Previous meeting's minutes were reviewed. **William moved for approval of the minutes; Brooks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Citizens' Comments:** Two citizens and one newspaper reporter was in the audience. No comments were made.

**New Business:**

- a) **Frye Island** – Jim distributed a handout and reported that Preti Flaherty will now be representing Frye Island, and that Frye Island's committee asked if this committee would permit its attorney to consult with their attorney. Dan explained that Newry and Frye Island are the only towns covered by the exception in the LD1 law. Dan gave a brief history of Frye Island's failed lawsuit against the State. It was decided that Dan would have a discussion with the Selectmen in regards to which attorney should handle this consultation (the Withdrawal Committee's or the Town's). If Dan does consult with Frye Island's attorney, he will bring the information back to this committee.
- b) **Gould Academy** – Mark distributed information and explained that the details from his conversation with Matt Ruby of Gould Academy are noted on the back sheet. Mark stated that not included in those notes is the fact that the resident tuition rate is \$54,000 and the day rate is \$31,000.
- c) **Revised Certificate of Organization** – Mark stated that he received from the Commissioner a revised Certificate of Organization. He confirmed that the committee members received the document as well and pointed out that without Andover, Newry has increased its weighted-vote power from 30 to 33 (33 out of 1,000).
- d) **ED279** – Mark explained that a 279 is the State's calculation for funding of public schools and every school unit in the state receives this 6-7 page document. He went on to review Newry's document page by page. As a side note, he said that he recently received SAD 44's ED279 for the three remaining towns and has begun an analysis on that document. On page 2 of Newry's 279, Mark pointed out that, although the town currently has 33 students, the State only recognizes 24 because 9 attend private school. Page 4 shows the mil expectation noted as 8.1 is a state-wide number set by the Commissioner and State Board. In order to maximize the State aid, the town must raise \$3.6 million locally. The required local contribution of \$271,493.09 calculates at a mil rate of 0.6. After reviewing the figures on page 5, Mark pointed out that the Town would receive some subsidy if it withdrew.

Mark explained that in order to analyze Newry's 279, he needs SAD 44's current budget and their revenue report. He emphasized that the two documents (SAD 44's ED279 & Newry's) are preliminary, for conversation only; generally, accurate numbers are not available until the end of March. Looking at the SAD44 279 with just Bethel, Woodstock and Greenwood, the projection for State subsidy is just under \$400k; last year's State subsidy was \$579k – a reduction of \$180k. Once he is able to analyze SAD 44's revenues, he

will be able to project a budget for all the communities. Mark expects to have more information at the next meeting.

- e) **SAD44 School Board Meeting** – Bonnie reported that a Withdrawal Committee has been formed. Marcel Polack is the head of the committee, and they were expected to meet today. The committee to look at the funding formula was not voted on, because they want the Withdrawal Committee to meet first. Bonnie explained that the Superintendent's job evaluation was down in executive session, and therefore, she is not able to give a report.

Tama Drown (in the audience) asked about the Superintendent's contract extension and expiration. She was directed to the School Board minutes on SAD 44's website.

- f) **Ramifications from Changing Funding Formula Law** – this will be discussed in Executive session.

Dan read from the provision of Section 15688, subsection 2 of the LD1 Law, it states that: Cost-sharing by people count do not apply in determining the local cost of education in member municipalities in SAD 6 & SAD 44. The cost-sharing formulas established between the member municipalities in these two school districts prior to January 1, 2005 remain in effect until the formulas are changed.

Dan stated that SAD 44's efforts to initiate a cost-sharing change by a local process would be permissible.

**Brooks moved to enter Executive Session; Bonnie seconded. The motion passes unanimously.**

**The committee entered Executive Session at 5:34pm. Executive Session ended at 6:55pm**

**A motion was made that the Committee authorize the Committee's attorney to complete the draft withdrawal agreement for the Committee's education consultant to share with SAD 44 Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Next Meeting** – scheduled to be held Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

**Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.