

**NEWRY WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday, December 3, 2015**

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

**Absent:**

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**Open Session Proceedings:**

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

The minutes of the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. **William Andrew moved for acceptance of the minutes as distributed; Bonnie Largess seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**Old Business:**

- a) **Report on negotiations:** Jim reported that there have been 2 negotiation meetings held in Portland with mediator John Alfano (Nov 17 & Nov 24), the results of each were similar with no progress. Mark Eastman reported on the details from those meetings including the proposals and counters made. Jim Sysko, Gary Wight, Mark Eastman and Dan Stockford attended both meetings representing the Town of Newry.

The group discussed the idea of a school board member at large and the fact that in order to stop this withdrawal process, it would need a town vote; this committee cannot just decide on its own to stop these proceedings.

They also talked about the number of members on a school board and the weight of each member's vote being determined by the State and based on population of the town. Newry currently has a total of 72 votes (36 each for its two board members) on the SAD 44 School Board. Bonnie explained that these numbers come into play only in the case of weighted votes; which seldom happens.

The board talked about the frustrations encountered with getting no counterproposals from SAD 44 during this process – the District representatives saying they don't want to reveal their position. Some ideas tossed around during discussion included the possibility of building a school in Newry or holding a special town meeting/public hearing to get ideas from the Town's citizens.

Jim noted that the committee currently has approximately \$10,000 left from its \$50,000 budget to pursue this withdrawal agreement.

Jim asked those folks from the public in attendance for their opinion as to whether they felt committee should continue to attempt negotiations. Two community members felt it would be a waste of money; one felt negotiation efforts should continue.

**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 ended at 7:55pm.
- b) **The committee voted unanimously to have Dan draft a letter to the SAD 44Withdrawal Committee asking them to provide a good faith counterproposal that does not require Newry to give up on its withdrawal effort.**
- c) **Date for next meeting:** TBD.

**Adjournment** – Following executive session, **William moved to adjourn; Bonnie seconded. The motioned passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.**