

# Newry Withdrawal Committee

Meeting Tuesday December 6, 2016

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## Attendees

Education consultant Mark Eastman  
Attorney Dan Stockford  
Chairman Jim Sysko  
William Andrews  
Gary Wight  
Bonny Largess

## Agenda

### Action on the minutes

1. Approved with a unanimous vote

### Citizen Comments

### Old Business

It was reported that most of the money raised at town meeting has been spent

### New Business

1. Review of Newry Vote of June 14
2. Review of the district vote of Nov.8

## Notes

- **Scott Cole ,citizen of Bethel and County Administrator, Informed the committee that he and others are supporting legislation to forbid Newry to withdraw. From SAD#44**
- **A discussion ensued regarding the options for moving forward.**

## Executive session

1. @ 6:25 the committee went into executive session.
2. The Committee adjourned the executive session @ 6:55
3. The committee voted to send a letter to SAD#44 withdrawal committee to clarify its intentions moving forward.

## Next Meeting Agenda Items

The next meeting date was set: January 10th, 2017 5 PM at the Newry Town Office.

The NWC requested a response by Jan. 6th, 2017 from the SAD 44 school board to the following letter: Our next steps will be discussed and they will depend on this response.

The Meeting of Dec 6, 2016 adjourned at 7:05

Town of Newry

Newry Withdrawal Committee

7 December 2016

Lainey Cross

Chair, SAD 44 Board of School Directors

Dear Lainey:

The recent defeat of the Cost Sharing proposal by the voters of SAD 44 closed a possible option to the withdrawal process that would have allowed the Newry Withdrawal Committee (NWC) to consider recommending ending the process. This unfortunate outcome has forced the NWC to consider our next steps in the process.

The continued refusal of the SAD 44 withdrawal committee to negotiate in good faith and to participate in mediation sessions, while actively lobbying against the cost sharing solution, prompts the NWC to consider more drastic options in order to be heard. The NWC does not want to submit any new proposals if they are to be ignored or rejected out of hand. Your practice of promising responses and then refusing to respond has sent a message of extreme disrespect to Newry citizens who are long-time major contributors to SAD 44.

It would be helpful if you would clarify your intentions as this process moves forward. Please clearly state whether or not you plan to continue your past practice of not participating in negotiations. Your clarification may save both parties time and money.

Marcel Polak has stated (Citizen, 6 October 2016) that "SAD 44's attorney told the School Board the only way Newry can now continue the withdrawal process is to take the district to court." We ask that you clarify whether the Board of Directors has officially adopted this approach.

Your approach to Newry has left many citizens, even those not in favor of withdrawal, feeling disrespected and bitter at the way the town has been treated. The NWC is eager to work with you to change the atmosphere of our discussions and reduce the ill will that appears to surround them.

The NWC requests your written response by 6 January 2017.

Sincerely,

Jim Sysko

Chair, Newry Withdrawal Committee

CC: David Murphy

Marcel Polak

Newry Select Board