

# SCHOOL TAX RATE STABILIZATION AND QUALITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 30, 2018

Members Present: Diana McGrath, Chad Findley, Thomas Smith, Nancy Simano, Reegan Hubbard, Kristina Daniels, Lori Williams, Raymond Doubleday, Craig Simpson, Cathy Colby, Michael Colby, Gwen Selleck, Melanie Millette, Jim Trudell-Selectman

Others Present: Steve Moscicki-Selectman, Bruce Beane-Selectman, Donna Clark-AA, Beth Hubbard

Chairman Thomas Smith call the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The members then introduced themselves and briefly explained why they wanted to be on the Committee. Some of the comments made were -

- People need to show up at School Board meetings and be proactive
- This Committee is a great forum to work towards improving the school we have
- Should consider looking at school choice at high school level - parents should be allowed to make the best choices for them
- One parent transferred a child out of LRS because they weren't challenged enough; too many online classes per student with little supervision in some cases
- There is a definite imbalance in the cost share - need to explore options, see what's available, try to address the formula first, then see what recourse there is if that fails
- We need good representation, improve the education and be treated fairly
- There are definitely problems but withdrawal is not a good option - fantastic quality education for lower grades but doesn't have kids in high school yet
- Kids in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are very upset at the thought of changing schools; want kids to stay at LRS and receive the same great education they did
- Kids and grandkids going to LRS; lots of family keep moving to Lyman to take advantage of the school
- Lisbon, Lyman and Landaff are all one community; need to get back to that feeling
- The numbers provided are eye-opening; hopes to see some changes
- Growing up in a small school then transferring to a large school was very difficult; there is a feeling of community and comfort at LRS
- Felt bad for the person at the Annual School Meeting afraid of tax increases
- Joined the committee to learn about the finances and figure out how we can stay here
- Jim Trudell was thanked for the years he has served on the school board

Two Committee members not present at the first meeting were sworn in and given the documentation they missed. Donna Clark returned the previously signed "General Guide to the Right to Know Law" documents to members.

The minutes of the April 16, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Jim Trudell motioned to approve the minutes as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Findley, all voted in favor. Chairman Thomas Smith signed the minutes on behalf of the Committee.

Folders containing the following information were handed out for review and discussion:

- 1969 Articles of Agreement with 1989 Amendment
- 1990 Synopsis of Lyman Proposal for School Cost Formula
- 1999 Annual School Meeting Minutes when formula was last amended
- Chairman Smith also passed out an article entitled *The Negative Impact of Children Changing Schools*

The following is a summary of the general discussions that took place.

- Lisbon has more children than Lyman participating in the free and reduced lunch program which is reflected in the amount of aid received by each
- How much aid do other schools in our area receive?
- Compare Lisbon's tuition rates for elementary, middle and high school (\$13,500 - \$15,500 - \$16,500) to others such as Littleton (\$17,000 - \$21,500 - \$21,500)
- Suggestion to try to get more towns to join LRS and make Landaff's Blue School a regional preschool
- Sometimes you need to spend money to get better quality
- Need to put money aside in capital reserves for large expenses like Lyman does
- Could we have looked for grant funds for the roof and bleachers?
- Ask if there is a grant writer at the SAU or maybe NH Municipal Association
- How do we find out what grants are available?
- Need to work together with Lisbon to make changes; they need to listen to Lyman's thoughts and suggestions
- How can we make education better with what we have?
- Long distance learning may be good for some but is too easy for others to breeze through then goof-off
- Online classes could be done better - who chooses the programs?
- Look into sharing teachers and other professionals among schools
- Doesn't seem to be enough homework given in the upper grades
- Ask Jr High and High School students what they are interested in - what would they like to learn about that is not available at Lisbon such as technology?
- Need to move ahead with the times and into the future with more options
- Ask guidance counselors for input
- Look at what Lisbon offers for online choices and compare to other schools
- What about building trades?
- What about job fairs, job shadowing, visiting businesses? Juniors and seniors do take part in internships.
- With a good education there are options to live here in a small town while still having a big job

Various Committee members will reach out to local schools and regionals to gather information on tuition, cost sharing formulas, numbers of students and programs offered.

The Chairman thanked everyone for participating. Chad Findley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diana McGrath, all voted in favor.

The next meeting of the School Tax Rate Stabilization and Quality Education Committee will be held on May 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Lyman Town Hall.

Approved:

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Chairman

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Date

Signed on behalf of the Committee