

SCHOOL TAX RATE STABILIZATION AND QUALITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 18, 2018

Members Present: Thomas Smith, Diana McGrath, Gwen Selleck, Raymond Doubleday, Craig Simpson, Cathy Colby, Michael Colby, Beth Carignan, Tim Carignan, Sheila Post, Lori Williams, Reagan Hubbard, Jim Trudell-Selectman

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

Chairman Thomas Smith call the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

The minutes of the May 21, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved. Chairman Thomas Smith signed the minutes on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee appreciated and accepted Chad and Meredith Findley's offer to withdraw from the group due to conflicts with their work schedules. It will help ensure that we have a quorum of members at meetings. David Simpson will also be considered a non-member as he has not been sworn in. This means a minimum of nine members must be present to hold a meeting.

Craig Simpson presented, in detail, a spreadsheet he prepared with assistance from Tim Carignan. The first page summarized current information about Lisbon, Lyman and Landaff. It also showed apportionment formulas used by various NH cooperative school districts and other area town tuition rates. The following scenarios were broken out with and without Landaff included:

- #1 - Current state with actual adequacy aid provided by SAU
- #2 - Calculations based on 100% ADM for operating expenses and 100% equalized valuation for capital expenditures
- #3 - Calculations based on 100% equalized valuation
- #4 - Calculations based on 95% ADM and 5% equalized valuation for operating expenses and 100% equalized valuation for capital expenditures
- #5 - Calculations based on 60% ADM and 40% equalized valuation for current expenditures
- #5 - Calculations based on 50% ADM and 50% equalized valuation for current expenditures

The group found this information eye-opening and noted that any change that is favorable for Lyman will be unfavorable for Lisbon.

Landaff currently pays \$15,000 per student for high school. They have a five-year agreement with Lisbon so have a better deal. Tim Carignan reported that, at this time, the majority of Bath students are choosing Woodsville over Lisbon.

The group briefly discussed an article from the NH Business Review that was emailed to all members June 11th. It pointed out that current state education funding puts poor districts at a disadvantage and specifically mentioned Lisbon.

Sheila Post then explained the items that were emailed to all members earlier in the day as most did not have to read them before the meeting:

- Link to Education World article on School-Business Partnerships That Work: Success Stories from Schools of All Sizes
- Link to the President's 2018 Education Budget which describes grants available to districts such as ours

The group discussed local businesses that mentor students or provide internships and agreed there are probably many more opportunities that could be pursued.

Regarding grants, Sheila and others believe there are many grants available to LRS; we just need to find them and apply. It is the only way to lower taxes, maintain quality education and not hurt Lisbon in the process. When investigating grants, it is important to keep timelines in mind.

As a school board member, Jim Trudell thinks Lisbon Regional School would be receptive to Lyman pursuing grants. Getting grants is the best way to improve education and entice more students to LRS.

Jim Trudell will reach out to an attorney who specializes in school matters to inquire about the Town's options if a change in the cost-sharing formula is proposed and voted down.

How does the Committee sell its ideas to the Town and School? This group is dedicated to meeting and looking for creative ways to make it happen.

Homework for next meeting:

- Review Craig's spreadsheets so the group can decide on the best formula change
- Read Sheila's articles and think about grant possibilities

After next meeting, the committee should be ready to break into 2-3 groups to focus on specific matters to present to the Town of Lyman and the Lisbon Regional School Board.

The Chairman thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

The next meeting of the School Tax Rate Stabilization and Quality Education Committee will be held on July 9, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Lyman Town Hall.

Approved:

Chairman

Date

Signed on behalf of the Committee