

# SCHOOL TAX RATE STABILIZATION AND QUALITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 20, 2018

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

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

Acting Chairman Raymond Doubleday called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The minutes of the July 9, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved. Acting Chairman Raymond Doubleday signed the minutes on behalf of the Committee.

Membership was discussed. A question was posed about whether former members should still receive correspondence sent out to the Committee. After some discussion of the pros and cons, it was decided that it was appropriate to keep them in the loop. Nancy Simano resigned from the group as she has moved out of state and Kristina Daniels is believed to be living out of town as well. Lori will reach out to Melanie Millette as she has missed the last several meetings. It is critical for members to attend the majority of meetings to be sure a quorum is present. Ray Doubleday pointed out that the membership of the Committee no longer meets the requirement of "at least 50% parents of current students" that was in the warrant article passed at Town Meeting due to people dropping out. The remaining active members don't feel this is an issue as everyone is working well together with common goals in mind.

Jim Trudell spoke briefly about the School Board. The roof repairs are underway and looking good. There is about \$43,000 being refunded to the school for payments inadvertently made to a former internet provider. Jim reminded the group that the School Board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month at 6:00 pm and the public is welcome to attend.

In old business, Reegan Hubbard advised that the Aug 13<sup>th</sup> Haverhill School Board meeting where Representative Rick Ladd spoke about NH Legislation that will increase taxes is available for viewing on Facebook. Lori Williams reported that there has been no talk of Landaff closing the Blue School. The group was reminded of the Sept 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in Berlin regarding the current state of education funding and continued reduction of stabilization funds from the State. Some members may attend.

Jim Trudell and Craig Simpson spoke with attorney Ed Lawson of Lawson Persson & Chisholm PC, a firm that represents clients on education issues, about grants and donations and changing the school apportionment formula. Craig summarized their conversation:

- Any grants or donations that come to the Town of Lyman may be allocated however the Town wishes.
- If grants or donations go to the School, conditions in the grant must stipulate the funds will only apply to Lyman's portion of school tax.
- Steps to request a change to the apportionment formula –
  1. Get the most recent figures from the SAU so the proposal is accurate.
  2. Need to bring the School Board in on it. If they don't put it on the warrant, we are done. Lyman would need the School Board to speak for it to make it work.
  3. Discuss it with Lisbon and Lyman townspeople to garner votes. Appeal to a sense of fairness regarding Lisbon's costs and statewide costs.
- A new law was passed that became effective Aug 11, 2018. Cooperative school districts formed after July 1, 1963 but prior to July 2018 are obligated to amend their articles of agreement to include provisions outlining the process for withdrawal by a school district. The amendment to RSA 195:18 II requires it must be adopted within six months. This will be the responsibility of the SAU and the School Board.

The Committee feels it is ready to report its findings and suggestions to the Board of Selectmen on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Craig will reach out to SAU 35's business manager, Kristin Franklin, for the most recent figures and update the spreadsheets he provided at the July meeting.

Jim Trudell mentioned that grant writing workshops are available at times and perhaps sending someone would be a goal in the future.

The Acting Chairman thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 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:

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Chairman

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Date

Signed on behalf of the Committee