

SCHOOL TAX RATE STABILIZATION AND QUALITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 10, 2018

Members Present: Thomas Smith, 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, Selectman Bruce Beane, Selectman Steve Moscicki

Chairman Thomas Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The minutes of the August 20, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved. Vice Chairman Raymond Doubleday signed the minutes on behalf of the Committee as Chairman Thomas Smith was not present at the Aug 20th meeting.

Membership was again discussed. Lori Williams and Donna Clark had conversations with Melanie Millette about attendance as she has missed the last several meetings. She did not get back to either one of them to confirm her interest in participating in future meetings so she will no longer be considered an active member. It is critical for members to attend the majority of meetings to be sure a quorum is present.

In old business, no one was able to attend the Sept 6th meeting in Berlin regarding the current state of education funding and the continued reduction of stabilization funds from the State of NH.

Committee's Presentation to the Board of Selectmen:

Although Selectman Jim Trudell is on this Committee and Selectmen Bruce Beane and Steve Moscicki often attend the meetings to stay informed, the School Tax Rate Stabilization and Quality Education Committee made a formal presentation of its findings and suggestions to the Board of Selectmen as required by the warrant article that authorized the creation of the Committee.

While pursuing grant opportunities is a worthwhile endeavor for both the Town and the School, the Committee believes that changing the apportionment formula is the only guaranteed way to lower Lyman's per student costs and, therefore, the school tax rate, without altering the quality of education currently being offered. Craig Simpson gathered the most recent figures from SAU 35's business manager, Kris Franklin, and the NH Department of Revenue's online reports and used them to update the cost-sharing spreadsheets he originally prepared for the July meeting. The current formula using 80% ADM (average daily membership) and 20% Equalized Valuation for all expenditures is extremely unfair to Lyman. After the presentation, it was agreed that the best option to somewhat equalize the cost per student between Lisbon and Lyman is to move to a formula using 100% ADM. The second best option would be to phase

the change to 100% ADM in over a few years rather than making it all at once. The third best option for Lyman would be 90% ADM and 10% Equalized Valuation for all expenditures.

The Committee is ready to report these findings and suggestions to the townspeople at an informational meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at 7:00 pm at the Lyman Town Hall. This meeting will be noticed in the Littleton Courier, at the Town Hall and on the Town website. Committee members will also spread the word.

Following that meeting, the next step would be to bring this request for a change to the apportionment formula to the Lisbon Regional School Board and demonstrate the unfairness of the current formula. The School Board would have to work with the SAU to get accurate figures for revenue, special education, etc. to confirm the current and proposed cost per student for Lisbon and Lyman, and would then have to be willing to put the requested change in a warrant article on the Annual School Warrant. The support of the School Board would be critical to getting a formula change approved as a 2/3 vote is required.

The Board of Selectmen thanked everyone for participating on the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next meeting of the School Tax Rate Stabilization and Quality Education Committee will be held on September 24, 2018 at 7:30 pm at the Lyman Town Hall.

Approved:

Chairman

Date

Signed on behalf of the Committee