

**SAU WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.  
AUBURN SAFETY COMPLEX**

**These minutes have been approved.**

Janice Baker called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Those in attendance were committee members Samantha Belcourt, Bill Wood, Joanne Linxweiller, Dave Wesche, Heather Lockwood, and Alan Villeneuve (6:15 p.m.). Also in attendance was SAU #15 Superintendent, Charles P. (Phil) Littlefield.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Becki McCarthy provided proof of posting.

Janice Baker reviewed the agenda.

**Fiscal Impact to Auburn, Candia, and Hooksett**

Dave Wesche presented his report. He used Chester's write-up as a model for the financial piece. Much of the report, he said, was based on assumptions until actual numbers could be determined. It was difficult to define the percentage of services received, and if Auburn is getting their fair share. This information would have to be vetted. The projected cost in his report didn't count the one-time transition cost. If it were to pass, the AVS renovation would house three SAU employees. The single SAU costs were based on a part time Superintendent and two full-time staff members. The budget was based on Chester's 16-17 budget. He said costs, staffing, and supplies, were based on what Chester had. Considerable discussion ensued. Janice Baker stated that though that is how Chester did their report, not all districts used the same format. The committee needs feedback on staffing needs, and if there is any latitude/bandwidth with staff at AVS to absorb some responsibilities. Housing the SAU could be in a subdivided, single portable at a cost of approximately \$40,000. Joanne Linxweiller asked what made up the revenue. Dave Wesche said it was projected revenue for SAU #15 for the previous year. Janice Baker said there are two ways to look at how a withdrawal would affect Candia and Hooksett. Assume level funding or cut staffing. Alan Villeneuve suggested hiring a consulting firm to determine how SAU #15 would look without Auburn. Dr. Littlefield said, citing Hooksett's attempt to withdraw, that no one at the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) believed that if Hooksett pulled out that they, Auburn and Candia would save money. It defied logic. The committee should be careful of making assumptions without discussions with Candia and Hooksett. Dr. Littlefield said there is a complexity in what it takes to run a school district. He suggested the committee spend time to determine what they see as the organizational structure for Auburn School District. He continued, saying it's the committee's responsibility to analyze who would be responsible for areas of high school, payroll, accounts payable, and grants, and suggested that a task analysis be done. They should anticipate worst-case scenarios, and to consider what it takes to run a school district; how emergencies would be handled when a part-time Superintendent is not scheduled. Heather Lockwood asked what types of emergencies might come up to which Dr. Littlefield stated a fire, bus accident, ambulance at the building, or a teacher being arrested as some instances.

Janice Baker summarized things that need consideration 1) Consult RSA's regarding services and tasks the SAU performs. 2) Expectations of staff as a single SAU. 3) Assets. 4) Location.

Joanne Linxweiller exited the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Janice continued, saying the committee should consider the following: task analysis, review assets, and think about SAU#15's cost from Candia and Hooksett's prospective. Calendars, Professional Development days were discussed as a few ways the SAU has collaborated in the past and still do to some degree. Dave Wesche said he will request an audit asset list from the SAU and likened running the SAU as a business. Dr. Littlefield said to be careful to reference running it as a business, as public institutions run differently. Dr. Littlefield stressed that the committee should be accurate and do right by the Auburn School District in their report. He said the report will be sent to the NHDOE who would forward it to their legal department where it will be checked against the RSA's.

### **Education Impact to Auburn, Candia, and Hooksett**

Samantha Belcourt read a handout outlining both positives and negatives of the educational impact a withdrawal would make.

### **Interview Sub-Committee Update**

Janice presented findings from the interviews done with well over twenty people, some affiliated with SAU #15 and some who are not. She said pages of notes went into her presentation. She said there is a disparity in some of the answers that is hard to define the cause of. Candia and Hooksett Boards opinions differ greatly from others who felt the SAU is doing a sub-par job.

Bill Wood commended Janice for her presentation, referring to the volume of notes taken. The committee reviewed the report. Dave Wesche felt that the report should have a balance, citing positive opinions, not just negatives as presented. Dr. Littlefield took exception to some of the items listed, saying some are untruths as written and, without rebuttal, may affect his marketability.

### **Schedule Update**

The schedule was reviewed.

### **Inventory of Committee and Sub-Committee meeting minutes**

The Board chose to wait on approving minutes until the next meeting. However, they will be put up on the website.

### **Public Comment**

Susan Goodhue asked why Alan Villeneuve conducted interviews when he wasn't on the interview sub-committee. He said that he bowed out of interviewing when there may have been a conflict of interest. Susan also asked where the minutes could be viewed. She was told where to find them online, when they are able to be put up. *(Note: a binder will all minutes and postings were available at the meeting and are housed at the SAU office).*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Samantha Belanger, seconded by Dave Wesche, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled SAU Withdrawal Meeting is Monday, September 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Safety Complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca SJ McCarthy  
Recording Secretary