

**SAU Withdrawal Study Committee**  
**July 20, 2016**

**Agenda**

1. Administration
  - a. Proof of Posting
  - b. Approve 6/22 Meeting Minutes
  - c. 9/7 and 9/21 meetings – can folks meet 5-7pm instead of 6-8pm?
2. Interview Sub-Committee Update (see accompanying document)
3. Summary of Withdrawal Studies (see below)
4. Consolidation / Separation Trends in NH (see below)
5. August Meetings
  - a. 8/3 – Education and Finance Sub-Committees present strategy, approach, plans
  - b. 8/17 – All Sub-Committees present findings/analysis.
  - c. 8/31 – All Sub-Committees present findings/analysis.
6. Adjourn

## Withdrawal Studies

Town and Profile	Reason(s) for Withdrawal	Result and Timeframe
<b>Hooksett (SAU15) – 2005?</b> 3 SDs in the SAU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local control</li> <li>Wanted SAU focus on Hooksett’s construction of a high school</li> <li>Worried about SAU focus on Auburn/Candia middle school construction</li> </ul>	
<b>Hooksett (SAU15) – 2006?</b> 3 SDs in the SAU		
<b>Wakefield (SAU64)</b> 413 students K-8 2 SDs in the SAU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairness – SAU supports 2 more schools, 28 more employees, and 166 more students in the Milton SD than in the Wakefield SD. But Wakefield pays 57% of the SAU’s costs.</li> </ul>	Submitted plan in 2005 voters in Spring 2006 Will be separate SAU
<b>Goshen (SAU71)</b> 79 students K-12, of which 55 are K-8; all students attend schools in neighboring towns (no operating school) 2 SDs in the SAU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local control (Goshen has 1 vote; Lempster has 5)</li> <li>Impractical to be in a combined SD since Goshen kids go to Newport schools</li> <li>Different vision than Lempster</li> <li>Goshen claimed withdrawal is cost-neutral, but Goshen had 36% of the students and paid 32% of the SAU costs; also SAU allocation was \$96k whereas single-SAU costs were \$82k. Confusing...</li> </ul>	Submitted plan in 2005 voters in Spring 2006 Will be separate SAU
<b>Franklin (SAU18)</b> 1518 kids aged 5-19; other town in SAU is Hill with 255 kids aged 5-19; Hill operates a K-6 school but kids in these grades have the option to attend Newfound SD; all kids grades 7-12 attend Newfound SD 2 SDs in the SAU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local control</li> <li>Recognize that they are effectively their own SAU since Hill SD recently decided to send its kids to Newport</li> <li>Cost reduction of \$40k per year due to elimination of 1 position</li> </ul>	Submitted plan in 2005 Will be separate SAU
<b>Chester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will get study on 7/26</li> </ul>	
<b>Epping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will get study on 7/26</li> </ul>	
<b>Fremont</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will get study on 7/26</li> </ul>	

## Consolidation / Separation Trends in NH

In the past ~ year, there have been a couple reports on school consolidation in NH, and they provide some good information on NH's education system. They look at consolidation at three levels - schools, school districts, and SAUs. Key points:

### [School Consolidation in New Hampshire](#) – report by the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies (March 2015)

- Point of study is to have NH consider not continue to have policies that discourage consolidation. Meaning, have policies that encourage consolidation.
- Study indicates NH should consider consolidation in response to (1) declining school enrollments; (2) declining State financial aid; and (3) increased pressure on districts for reporting, assessment, and accountability from state and federal governments
- Policies that discourage consolidation include: (1) 2012-2015 moratorium on higher reimbursement rates from State for new building construction to multi-town districts; (2) no State voice pushing for consolidation since the 1960s/1970s; (3) change in law in 1996 that allowed districts to withdraw from SAUs over the opposition of other districts within the SAU and the Board of Education (BOE)
- History of SAUs in NH
  - 1973 – 42 SAUs; lowest number ever
  - 1980s – big growth in single district SAUs driven largely by enrollment increases in southern NH districts
  - 1983 - 53 SAUs
  - 1992 – 67 SAUs. BOE issues moratorium on creation of new SAUs and BOE authorized to combine districts
  - 1996 – removal of BOE veto power on a district's withdrawal plans
  - 2014 – 92 SAUs
- School enrollment has fallen more than 10% over the past decade. Population aged 5-19 projected to fall 13.4% from 2010 to 2025 (from 256k to less than 222k)
  - Rockingham County – 22.7% decrease
  - Hillsborough County – 12.7% decrease
  - Merrimack County – 13.6% decrease
- No uniformity in national research in terms of the relationship between school/district size, school quality, and student achievement

### [Consolidation as a Potential Cost Saving Measure for NH's Education System](#) – report by the Class of 1964 Policy Research Shop (Dartmouth College) (May 2016)

- Point of study is to look at consolidation of schools, districts, and SAUs as cost saving measures due to declining enrollments and shrinking school-age population
- NH spends \$14,928 per student per year with local funds accounting for 57.4% (\$8,567) and state funds accounting for 36% (\$5,377). *JB Note: Is the rest from grants/federal funds?*
- As an alternative to consolidation, some districts and SAUs trying to save money have looked to other types of arrangements for SAU services including third-party agencies that provide services to various districts or direct collaborations with districts. NH has 3 educational alliances that provide a range of resources to their member SAUs, inc. professional development and consulting (North County Education Services, Southeastern Regional Service Center, and Strafford Learning Center)