

MILTON SAU PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 31, 2013

Chair Ann Walsh called the meeting to order at 3:02PM. Present were committee members Larry Brown, Bob Carrier, Donna Marie Carrier, Leslie Crisanaz, and Superintendent Michael Tursi.

Ms. Walsh stated that this was a workshop meeting to start working on writing the plan. Bob Carrier and Larry Brown both stated that they started working on drafts on the plan.

Ann Walsh said that she and Leslie had met with Business Administrator Andrew D'Agostino for a preliminary talk about how to split and distribute assets if the Milton and Wakefield school districts were to split. Mr. D'Agostino told them that he believed the Local Government Center would probably come in and do an appraisal of the SAU assets at no charge. He will look into this. They also talked about the splitting of the technology system. Mr. D'Agostino suggested that a representative from Back Bay come and speak to the committee regarding what would be involved in separating the technology.

Larry reviewed the draft that he had created. His draft included a brief background including location, individual district school set-ups, and a budget amount for the 2012-2013 school year for both the local district and the SAU. He went on to explain the problems that have occurred in recent years between the two local school boards which led to the Milton School Board placing a warrant article on the ballot in March asking the voters to form a committee to explore SAU options including withdrawal.

Larry then briefly described what the committee has worked on up until this point including reviewing the history of the district's formation and its structure. The committee has discussed issues facing our district and reviewed other district withdrawal plans. They discussed the possibility of joining another local district but at present there are really no options. The business office put together different scenarios of staffing and costs if we were to split from Wakefield and be a stand-alone district. The committee also interviewed several past and present administrators and school board members to obtain their opinions on the functioning of the SAU office.

Larry's draft spoke a little bit about the fact that the two districts did not really resources or staff. Mr. Tursi confirmed this with the exception of a few special education services.

In conclusion Larry made the point that it is prudent to plan to change but it was also prudent not to force change without a benefit. He then left spaces for the additional cost that we would incur if we were to be a stand-alone district. He also left spaces for the actual mil rate and what it would cost each household.

The committee then began to review Bob Carrier's draft. He used the same format that the Mascenic School used to create their plan. He briefly reviewed his plan explaining what he did and what was missing.

The committee agreed that a detailed plan was necessary to present to the State of New Hampshire and to the voters of Milton showing the work that had been done.

The group started working on the Committee Formation and Purpose section on page 2 of Bob's draft. The first section was changed to say – The Milton School District is located in Strafford County, NH. It is currently part of SAU64 which also includes the Villages of Wakefield, NH which is located in Carroll County.

The next paragraph was changed to read – At the March, 2013 Milton School District Meeting , the townspeople voted to create a planning committee to study the feasibility of withdrawal from SAU64 and establishing an SAU in accordance with RSA 194-C:2 III.

The committee agreed that the next section which detailed exactly what the task of the committee was should be the exact law.

A discussion then began about exactly what the mission of the committee was. Should we be actually creating a withdrawal plan?

Ann stated that in our earlier meetings Jay McIntire put forth to the committee that we really had three options – we could remain in the current SAU with Wakefield, we could look in the surrounding area to see if there was another SAU that would like to share services, or we could look at withdrawal and be a stand-alone SAU. The committee decided to investigate the withdrawal and be a -alone SAU process. This brings us to where we are now – in the process of planning a withdrawal stand-alone plan to decide if it would be in the best interest of the Milton School District, financially and academically.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Walsh