

Franklin Withdrawal Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2015
Franklin City Hall

6:00 PM
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Committee Members: Leigh Webb, Member of the Public, Tamara Feener, School Board, Scott Burns, School Board, Glen Feener, Councilor, David Testerman, Member of the Public, George Dzujna, Councilor, Janet Desrocher, Member of the Public

Administration: Daniel LeGallo - Superintendent, Amanda Bergquist – Business Administrator, Elizabeth Dragon – City Manager, Judi Milner – Finance Director

Others: School Board Clerk – Robyn Keane

Call to Order by David Testerman at 6:00 PM.

Public Input – NONE

Leigh Webb acknowledged having public input before and after the meeting.

Withdrawal Discussions:

Sub-Committee (members, Leigh Webb, David Testerman and Janet Desrocher)

Discussion was held on the sub-committee meeting and the minutes.

#3 – (Investigate methods of Finance for SAU) is underway.

#4 – (Educational Assessment) Daniel LeGallo will get data.

#5 – (Legal Council) it was recommended to reach out to Jim O’Shaughnessy, School Lawyer, regarding legalities. Dan mentioned having Jim draw up a draft letter to the Department of Education for when proposal is finalized.

Leigh Webb wants clarification on vision of assets remaining in district, obligation and cost of singular district and the costs of SAU now. Is there compensation for the \$93,000 Franklin would lose by withdrawing? Judi Milner stated she previously met with Mike O’Neill regarding the financial consolidation of the SAU with the City and has met with Amanda to talk numbers. Compensation at this point would be approximately \$80,000. This does not eliminate any positions, but there will be a reorganization of positions. She would like to meet with the Superintendent, City Manager and Business Administrator to go over the details of the consolidation.

Note: this is a completely different topic from the withdrawal, but if there is a financial consolidation, plus a withdrawal, there would be a compensation of \$80,000 from the \$93,000. The final answer on the consolidation will be by the SAU School Board.

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Janet Desrochers mentioned that instead of withdrawing from the SAU, offer Hill School District a new agreement and offer them services.

Time spent for services to Hill for AP, Payroll, Superintendent and the Business Administrator is approximately 5%.

Amanda Bergquist remembers from a previous meeting a lawyer indicated instead of SAU withdrawing, SAU could reorganize and this could be fiscally inexpensive. She will look into this further. It was discussed to ask the school lawyer if the SAU can give Hill School District a new agreement which includes services.

Weighted voting was discussed. There is a formula and Dan LeGallo will look up the RSA.

A discussion on asking the SAU School Board what their thoughts and feelings would be on each of the 3 options:

1. Withdrawal
2. Consolidation
3. Reorganization

The committee asked to have this placed on the agenda for the next SAU School Board meeting being held on October 13th in Hill at 7:00 PM. The committee would like a copy of the agenda once approved.

Dan Legallo distributed a new timeline from the attorney. Due to a misunderstanding by the school lawyer a new timeline will need to be drafted. March will be the first submission of the plan to the city council for comments before submission to the State Board of Education.

MOTION: Glen Feener moved to accept the date of March 7, 2016 for the withdrawal proposal to be presented to City Council, seconded by George Dzujna.

Motion Carried – **Unanimous**

Adjournment

MOTION: David Testerman moved to adjourn at 7:15 PM, seconded by Glen Feener.