

Franklin Withdrawal Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2016
Franklin Middle School Library

6:00 PM
Page 1 of 2

Committee Members: Leigh Webb, Member of the Public, Susan Cook, School Board, Scott Burns, School Board, David Testerman, Member of the Public, George Dzujna, Councilor, Janet Desrocher, Member of the Public

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

Others: School Board Clerk – Robyn Keane, Councilor, Anthony Guinta

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

Public Input – NONE

Dave Testerman emailed the committee members the draft plan for the withdrawal. He asked the committee members to look it over and give him their input.

Welcome to the 2 new committee members, Susan Cook, School Board and Tony Guinta, Councilor. It was noted the City Council has to vote which city counselor will be attending the Withdrawal Committee. Their next meeting is February 1st and will be placed on the agenda. For tonight, Tony Guinta will be the counselor in attendance.

Hill School Board was invited to attend tonight's meeting. Shelly Henry, Nancy Coffin and December Fortin were in attendance. It was mentioned that the Hill School Board did not want the consolidation and withdrawal on the SAU agenda again. Nancy Coffin stated at the last withdrawal committee meeting she indicated at the previous SAU School Board meeting there actually had been specific concerns that had been brought up regarding consolidation from a couple of SAU school board members and not just Hill. The withdrawal is a Franklin issue, not a SAU School Board issue until such a time the withdrawal is approved. Then it will be a SAU School Board issue.

It was asked of the Hill School Board if in the future they would change their minds and ask Franklin for an agreement. Nancy Coffin indicated they signed a 10 year agreement with Newfound. In the future if the Hill School Board didn't approve of Newfound's curriculum then they would look around for another district. Shelly stated they would again check several school districts for their input in regards to curriculum, tuition and an agreement.

George Dzujna mentioned several people having told him the attorney's fees would be extremely high. Dan LeGallo indicated the initial fee may be high.

Leigh Webb asked the Hill School Board members how they felt about the withdrawal and if we didn't withdraw how they felt about the consolidation. Shelly Henry answered they did not want the consolidation. For the withdrawal not to worry about Hill they would figure it out.

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Page 2 of 2

Shelly Henry indicated the committee needs to really educate themselves regarding the withdrawal and all aspects of the withdrawal before making a decision.

Consolidation questions: Different accounting, no the same accounting. Previous meetings were mentioned that no one would lose their job, but the presentation shows one person losing their job. Judi confirmed this was Amanda's previous position that has not been filled. Superintendent indicated the Attorney at the SAU meeting said Franklin should not consolidate and yes, other districts have attempted this and decided against due to too many issues.

How will the SAU handle losing \$93,000. What is the accurate division of assets. Committee asked Dan LeGallo to give them figures for both before and after withdrawal.

The Franklin School Board has not voted on whether or not to consolidate or to explore the possibility of consolidation.

It was agreed by the committee to invite the Franklin School Board to the next meeting to discuss and present a powerpoint on the consolidation.

Public Input: Deb Brown introduced herself as the one of the new Franklin School Board members.

Next meeting will be: Tuesday, February 2nd – FMS Library – 6:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.