

Franklin Withdrawal Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2016
Franklin Middle School Library

6:00 PM
Page 1 of 3

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

Absent: David Testerman

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

Franklin School Board: Deb Brown, Bill Grimm, Robin Gargano (Susan Cook, Scott Burns)

Absent: Greg Husband, Lisa Tremblay, Tim Dow, Marisa Carter

Others: School Board Clerk – Robyn Keane

Call to Order by Leigh Webb at 6:05 PM.

Public Input – NONE

Franklin School Board members were invited for a presentation from the City regarding the consolidation. (The meeting was also considered a Special Franklin School Board meeting).

Judie Milner presented a PowerPoint on the consolidation.

Questions were asked in regards to the software systems costs. Between the two software systems a decision will be made which one will work better. Guestimate between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Annual cost for SAU 18 is \$13,500 unlimited users. Current costs of city, plus users is \$5,800.

Bill Grimm was interested in what the cost of education would be; cost per student.

Questions were asked about the bookkeeping functions and how will the software know which account numbers belong to who. Account numbers will be able to filter out what is the schools and what is the city's accounts.

Leigh Webb asked if the savings will offset the \$93,000. If Franklin School Board does not want to consolidate then what happens. Leigh stated the committee needs these figures. The consolidation presentation has not addressed all the questions for the November 5th SAU minutes. It was asked if Judi could please answer these questions.

Franklin Withdrawal Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2016
Franklin Middle School Library

6:00 PM
Page 2 of 3

What happens to Hill if it becomes its own SAU? They would need to hire a Superintendent or a principal/superintendent and a bookkeeper. The presentation mentioned that Hill could hire MRI for other issues that would need to be looked at that the bookkeeper would not be able to manage.

Nothing will be cut for the students. Both the city and the school slow down on spending in a couple of weeks. Once June comes around the city starts releasing some of the extra money. Last year the school district had \$287,000 left over. The school was able to buy copiers instead of leasing.

Robin Gargano (board member) asked if the withdrawal gets approved would the salary for the Superintendent be lowered since he would only be working for one district. This would be a school board decision.

Deb Brown (board member) read minutes on a possible consolidation in 1998. Superintendent at that time was Carl Hess. Deb asked if the ordinances since then have been changed. Elizabeth Dragon remarked there had to be changes at some point and that both attorneys for the city and the school agreed that these services can be provided as seen fit. Elizabeth mentioned that it is not a conflict as it is a financial service.

Leigh Webb reminded everyone that this is the withdrawal committee. Withdrawal and consolidation are two different subjects. It was mentioned that the plan has nothing listed in regards to the education component. Leigh reminded everyone that the plan is a draft. This is just the beginning of the process for the withdrawal plan. All committee members agreed this was a draft plan. Elizabeth Dragon stated that finance is a large piece of the plan and that the City is losing a lot of revenue. Deb Brown mentioned that there was a lot of turnaround in the SAU Office and since Amanda Bergquist has been here 9 to 10 audits have already been complete for all three entities. The auditors and Amanda have been working diligently to get the Audits up to date.

Breakdown of Financial Office

Account Manager – Municipal Side
Accountant – Business Administrator
Accounts Payable – SAU
Payroll and HR Generalist – SAU

Judi Milner went over the Project schedule and the timeline on how things will happen. The schedule shows consolidation will happen 7 months out and -1, -2 is after consolidation. Question was raised regarding dual treasurer. Judi Milner stated city will have treasurer and 2 deputy treasurers and will get rid of one set.

The consolidation is on the agenda for the Franklin School Board for February 15th. Hopefully there will be answers and more information to bring back to the board. Judi Milner will present the consolidation to the Franklin School Board.

Franklin Withdrawal Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2016
Franklin Middle School Library

6:00 PM
Page 3 of 3

Amanda Bergquist passed out the SAU itemized listing and SAU Budget breaking down Hill and Franklin's portion. The breakdown of the SAU Budget Sheet - the first column is the SAU budget, second column is the indirect costs, and third column is the balance and the Hill and Franklin portions. \$755,000 would be amount if Franklin withdrew.

It was asked of the committee when the initial vote for the consolidation was taken. George Dzujna stated it was during the Joint City Council and School Board meeting. Consolidation was brought up at this meeting to save money, provide efficiency and improve the financial reporting.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at 6:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.