

## Franklin Withdrawal Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2016  
Franklin Middle School Library

6:00 PM  
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**Committee Members:** Leigh Webb, Member of the Public, Susan Cook, School Board, Scott Burns, School Board, George Dzujna, Councilor, Janet Desrochers, Member of the Public, Anthony Giunta, Councilor, David Testerman, Member of the Public

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

**Others:** School Board Clerk – Robyn Keane

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

David Testerman called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. (Note: waited for Tony Giunta). Bob Desrochers called Tony and he will be here in a few minutes, Tony did not receive an email for the agenda to this meeting or minutes from the last meeting).

The committee approved the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

Committee looked over the Draft Plan. It was stated the consolidation is essentially done. Options for Hill should be included in the plan.

Leigh webb would like an in depth explanation on Page 5 and would like Dan's opinion on the withdrawal. Amanda explained once Franklin is a single district legal services and audit services will be less. Advertising will be the same. (On page 5 Legal and audit need to be switched; legal should be \$14,000 and audit should be \$7,500. The note for \$1,500 was in the past SAU grants were not coming in on time and in order to pay salaries had to get loan from the Bank. The note has been paid in full).

Leigh Webb participated in the Franklin School District meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> and stated the consolidation is still a disputed item.

George Dzujna mentioned hearing comments from the public such as; consolidation is a penalty, we have been doing this for 50 years why change now. People still do not understand what consolidation will mean.

Dan LeGallo will call the Mayor and set up a meeting between the City and the Franklin School Board to discuss consolidation. (Elizabeth Dragon stated they chose April 11<sup>th</sup>.)

Joint meeting will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Leigh Webb if consolidation occurs with school board who benefits from the savings. Does it benefit the school district? Plus, there is no guarantee what will come out of the joint meeting. Elizabeth stated the school district will benefit not the City.

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Janet Desrochers stated the consolidation shouldn't be discussed anymore, since the school board voted not to.

Adequacy amount for SAU is \$280,000, without Hill we lose \$100,000 making us \$400,000 already in the hole.

Public Input – Bob Desrochers stated money should go into the school.

George Dzujna brought up what the lawyers' fees will be for withdrawing. \$1,500 for the lawyer to go to the State Board. We have already spent \$2,500.

Leigh Webb would like to commend the chairperson for stepping up and writing the draft plan. He also stated if the committee decides to withdraw the financial aspect might have significant changes. It could be costly and might not. Scott Burns' feels withdrawing will be costly and Hill should be the district withdrawing from the SAU.

Dave Testerman will make the changes in the plan. Copies of the plan go to both districts and then, per the timeline there will be public hearing and then the plan goes to state.

Committee approved to vote for withdrawal:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Susan Hallet-Cook | No  |
| Leigh Webb        | No  |
| Scott Burns       | No  |
| Janet Desrochers  | Yes |
| George Dzujna     | Yes |
| Dave Testerman    | Yes |
| Tony Giunta       | Yes |

Tony stated he said yes to withdrawal because it is all about finances and Hill said they want nothing from Franklin.

Committee approved to go forward with the withdrawal.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

**Joint meeting with School Board and City: Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM at City Hall.**

**Public Hearing Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Franklin Middle School Library.**