

## RSU2 Informational Committee on Contract Renewal Review

Meeting held on December 08, 2016 at Pownalborough Hall. Members in attendance were Dale Hinote (Selectman), Jeffrey Pierce (PB), Chairman, Branden Perreault (BRC), Brenda Sawyer (Resident/Teacher), Patty Stewart (Resident at Large) and Shari Lilly (Recording secretary).

Others present – (Residents) Bill Matthews, JoAnne Jones and Gary Getchell.

Branden opened the meeting at 6 p.m. He asked the secretary if notices had been posted. They were put in the town office, post office, newspaper, Communicator (online) and in the local stores.

**First order of business** was to review / approve the minutes of the November 27 meeting. All members approved unanimously by show of hands.

**#2 – Initial agreement for joining RSU2** – Branden passed out copies to everyone. He has also notified Mr. Zima (RSU Superintendent) of our intent and that, at the appropriate time, we would like him to attend for a Q & A when we are ready with the questions, etc.

**#3 – Introduction** – Branden has copies of the data, however, some results were suppressed due to the sizes of the schools. He said State testing was done and are just now getting the results. Comparing the schools is a 'shot in the dark' due to changes from year to year in the testing. Richmond results in Math and Dresden & Hall-Dale results were in science. He has broken down the statistics for each subject per school. Dale has info on aggregate schools which average 45% +. He noted that the RSU2 appears to be between 2 & 5%, which is average or just below average statewide.

**#4 – Financial** – Branden spoke with Vickie, the Business Manager for RSU2. He broke the information down for our school to show what it could cost Dresden to pull out. Dresdens's cost is 11.3% - districtwide estimate is 25%. As to the Debt Service, at this time there is none for Dresden,, but he did put up 25% for budget purposes. Patty asked if that is just for the Elementary or including the higher grades. She wants to know what the per-student cost is so we can compare it to the cost of sending our students to other schools. Plus, what the cost of K-5 with our school and the teacher's salaries so we can inform the townspeople. Branden will try to get with Vickie for assistance on figures.

**#5 – Focus Groups** – Would it serve the committee to have 'focus groups' such as one to focus on financial and one to focus on curriculum – (perhaps doing them financial, contractual, and curriculum). Patty feels that would be a good idea so we can accomplish more details on each issue. Jeff feels we should focus on the financial and the contractual to give us an idea of what the outcome may be from one to the other. Curriculum is another area to see how the other parts can affect that. We can get an outlook on these with questions that we can give to Mr. Zima, and not try to put

everything together at once. Jeff suggested starting with the contractual which he would do if anyone wants to work on that with him. Dale would like to get into the curriculum as he feels that is important for a number of reasons. Patty said we also need to make sure we don't make the money more than we are spending now for the taxpayers. Brenda said we are such a small group that it would be difficult to try to do one aspect. It would be better if we could all work together to help each other and we may learn more about each aspect that way. Jeff still feels the contractual aspect should be foremost. Perhaps two (2) people can work on that and three (3) on curriculum. Resident Gary Getchell was involved with the initial contract with RSU2. He noted that it would be better to have just two (2) people on an element as three (3) would constitute a quorum. Dale said that Gary is incorrect about that. He then asked Patty her thoughts about it. She agrees with Brenda that everyone should work on the same elements and then can have discussions on it at the next meeting. Jeff said we can all look over the information given out tonight and have questions or comments at the next meeting.

Jeff said the rise in the minimum wage will change with the passage of the referendum which will affect the pay of many municipal employees. Mr. Getchell said that shouldn't affect the teachers as they are contractual; not hourly. Some information can be obtained from the Maine Data Warehouse.

PSAT / SAT – Jeff said it would be good to have all this data in the portfolio for the public. Also, we should look at ALL contracts – from teachers to ed techs to kitchen employees.

Due to another group using the Hall on a planned meeting night, we will see about meeting at Bridge Academy Library on Wednesday, December 28. If not, we will meet at the Hall on Dec. 29. Then we'll try to plan for the second & fourth Wednesday for our meetings. Cancellations will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

Agenda for next meeting – Financials – Review minutes of previous meeting – Teacher's contract info. Some information can be found on the RSU2 website.

*Adjourned at 6:58 p.m.*