

K. A. Brett School Library
July 25, 2011. 4PM

MINUTES

Attending: Waldron, Timchak, LaBrie, Perry, Troon, (McIntire)

Absent: DeLong, Wald

Mr. Troon is serving as chair and Mr. Waldron as log keeper for this meeting.

The focus of this meeting is small single district SAUs

There was discussion of what the Warrant Article specified to be studied. The group agreed that we would study SAU organization but not District organization as the material to be reported to the School District meeting. If we think that a District organization such as a Cooperative School district would be a possible future option for Tamworth then we would examine that separately and recommend to the School Meeting that a group be formed to specifically study that option at the next School District Meeting.

Mr. Waldron described the study of the SAU organization being undertaken by Dr. Paul DeMinico on behalf of the SAU Joint Board. That study will focus on the organization or reorganization of SAU 13 and is scheduled to be complete in the September timeframe. We will not focus in that area until Dr Dimminico finishes his study and we have a chance to review his work.

Rob presented the information that Susan Wald and he gathered on Barnstead. Barnstead had been part of a 2 district SAU with Pittsfield. They decided to form their own SAU because they thought they didn't have sufficient access to SAU services and didn't share a lot in common with Pittsfield. The SAU staff consists of a PT Superintendent, FT Exec Asst, Business Administrator, and Bookkeeper. They estimate this costs approximately \$70K more than sharing services with Pittsfield. Barnstead is currently investigating forming a Cooperative School District with Alton to provide K-12 education to both towns.

Nina presented information on Lyme which is similar in size to Tamworth, approx 192 students in K-8, HS students are sent to 7 different High Schools.

Grantham. 236 students, K-6. MS/HS students are tuitioned to Lebanon. Grantham broke away from Lebanon. Grantham has a part-time superintendent, 30-35 hours per week and a full time principal. Food service and transportation team leaders are in the district budget, not SAU. Total budget of \$6,522,000. Student:teacher ratio is 10.9:1, whereas ours is 6.9:1. Enrollment is increasing.

Gillmanton. SAU office has superintendent, secretary, fiscal agents, and a business administrator 42 days per year. 378 students, K-8. 9-12 students go to Guilford. Total budget \$9,862,000. In SAU \$157,000 is budgeted for superintendent's function, plus benefits. The budget for special ed administrators is \$57,000 and for fiscal services is \$94,000. Total of \$308,934 for administration. Principal office expenses are \$237,000 (includes full time principal and assistant principal). Gillmanton broke away as an independent district more than a decade ago.

Freemont. 533 students, k-8. Total district budget of \$10 million. SAU has part-time superintendent

and full time business administrator. The SAU budget is unknown. Valuation per pupil is about half of Tamworth's. Average class sizes are larger than Tamworth's.

Mason. Town population of 1394, with 89 students K-5. The budget is \$3 million, with SAU's portion being \$215,000. The SAU has a superintendent, director of special services, and a contracted business administrator.

Plainfield. The town is similar in size to Tamworth population-wise, but with higher average incomes. The school has 236 students, K-8 and a budget of \$6 million. The SAU has a part-time superintendent, part-time assistant superintendent, part-time business administrator, and a special services director. The SAU budget is \$160,000. The district has received awards for the level of volunteering in the school. The district has a staff volunteer coordinator.

Chester. The K-8 school has 565 students. The SAU employs a part-time superintendent, full time finance manager, part-time bookkeeper, and full time administrative assistant. The special ed director is in the district budget and covers grades K-12. Broke separated from an SAU with Freemont. Chester likes current structure, with more access to superintendent. They are considering reducing the superintendent to 0.6 FTE.

Alton. Its K-8 school has 550 students, with a budget of \$12.9 million, plus \$500,000 in trust funds. They have a unique structure in which they are a stand-alone district for K-8 and are part of a cooperative for the high school level only, along with Barnstead. Both Barnstead and Alton have study committees to consider a cooperative school district.

JW – Towns want to have control over their superintendent and SAU services. If you're paying \$200,000 per year and getting 50% of an SAU, but you could pay \$300,000 and get 100%, you pay more and get more.

RT – I think we should look at what this would cost Tamworth. Will Paul Deminico give some ideas of how the SAU could be structured internally?

JW – Now that we have general information, maybe we should do a visit to one or two. Maybe late September we could go on visits to get hands-on information at SAU offices. We would want to see how services are provided.

RT – At our next meeting, we could determine questions to ask. We should also discuss which ones make sense to visit. For next meeting Jay & I could create a proposal of how to fulfill those SAU requirements in our system.

JW – RT and JM will provide a report and we should decide who to look at. I think we should do Alton/Barnstead and Lyme.

Members can forward electronic copies of reports of the towns they studied.

Action log. RT and JM will write options showing current services vs options under single district.

Everyone identify which districts are most comparable.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay McIntire, secretary

ACTION LOG

July 25, 2011

1. Rob and Jay will set up a framework of SAU services as they exist in SAU 13 today and how they could be delivered in a single district SAU
2. Members will review the information and towns discussed to today to determine which towns are most comparable to Tamworth
3. The next meeting will be Sept 12 at 4 pm in the KA Brett Library