

Education Committee - Town of Arrowsic

Arrowsic Town Hall, October 28, 2014

[Draft by Anita Lichman]

Participants: Wendy Briggs, David Howe, Camille Kauffunger, Anita Lichman

Agenda:

1. Approve last meeting minutes.
2. Schedule upcoming Education Committee meetings.
3. Review & discuss RSU1 student list.
4. Review & discuss RSU1 board meeting & public hearing.
5. Establish priority order of the activities for the Education Committee.

1. Approve last meeting minutes.

David circulated the minutes from last meeting and David & Anita, who attended the last meeting, approved the minutes.

2. Schedule upcoming Education Committee meetings.

The group selected, based on the availability of the Town Hall meeting space & group member schedules, Tuesday November 18th and December 16th at 6pm as the next two Committee meeting dates & times. David reserved Town Hall by writing the meetings times down on the Town calendar. **David also agreed to ask Bill Savedoff about how many months in advance the group needs to post meeting dates to the public.** Committee members also discussed the process to be sworn in and it was noted that Wendy, David, and Camille were not sworn in yet (Anita was sworn in). The group wondered if someone from the Town who conducts the swearing in could attend the next Committee meeting and swear in the group members. **Camille agreed to follow up with Town staff to identify if someone could swear in group members at the next Committee meeting.**

3. Review & discuss RSU1 student list.

David circulated the RSU1 student list and shared that the Selectman had already reviewed & approved the list. The group reviewed the list and discussed the past purpose, and future goals, of the list. Included in this discussion Camille noted that she thought the past purpose of the list was help the Town accurately verify and confirm payment for students living in the Town & attending RSU1. Wendy noted that in the past the list had served to identify errors in payment for students who no longer lived in Arrowsic. It was also noted by the group that once the list is approved the Town is committed to the financial details associated with the list (i.e. payment per student). The group agreed that in order to comment on the list in a meaningful and accurate way the group would need additional information and/or processes. **It was agreed that David would ask Bill Savedoff the following questions.**

- Is there a current process to validate and approve the list?
- Are there natural and recurring data points with other Town processes that could overlap with this information and help the group confirm the list?
- Are there confidentiality limits of sharing the list?
- Is there a reason addresses are not on the list?
- What steps would be recommended for the Education Committee to take to have accurate and detailed information to be able to verify the student list next year?

The group agreed to follow up on any details that David collected prior to the next Education Committee meeting.

4. Review & discuss RSU1 board meeting & public hearing.

Camille & David shared their notes on the RSU1 board meeting & public hearing.

-A draft budget was presented noting without West Bath in RSU1 \$290-\$300k additional costs was projected to be shared by the remaining Towns in RSU1. This would potentially impact Arrowsic with a hypothetical 1% (\$8k) increase/

-A consulting firm's report continued to be debated in relation to recommendations of proposed redistricting, school closures, safe standards and efficiencies for educational facilities, and financial details for personnel & facilities. The School Board highlighted there were no school closures being considered currently. Commentators asked questions around the formation of a new school board for West Bath, the cost of a Superintendent, the shift in control/in-put for West Bath of oversight of students K-12 to K-5, and shared examples of other towns who did withdraw from RSU1 (i.e. Woolwich and Wiscasset) as having rising costs per pupil after the withdrawal.

-After the meeting another meeting occurred to discuss the possibility of "grandfathering" in families who currently attend West Bath Elementary School but live in other towns.

-2 current students from Arrowsic attend West Bath Elementary School.

-The remaining items shared at the RSU1 board meeting centered around approval for Phippsburg to hire a 2nd grade teacher, some of Woolwich's classroom sizes near overcrowding limits and

A report from the finance committee about how many pupils from RSU1 were attending charter schools (18 students from the district ,up from 8 students last year, - 2 at Hinkley, 6 at Maine Connections, 10 at Harpswell).

5. Establish priority order of the activities for the Education Committee.

One major item was labeled as priority at the meeting: identifying ways to identify students in the Town to accurately verify the student list and conduct outreach to build connections & community that would inform the Committee of its directions.

Next Steps:

1. David will contact Bill Savedoff about the student list and report back to the Committee prior to the next Committee meeting – including any work that needs to be completed.
2. Camille will follow up about swearing in Committee members at next Committee meeting.
3. David will ask Bill Savedoff about how many months in advance the group needs to post meeting dates to the public.

The meeting was adjourned by 7:10pm.