

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Garvin Library

July 11, 2018

Present:

Board Members: Angeline Alley, Chair; Brent Abare, Sara Dennis, Paul Hazel, Judy Murray, Julie Oliver, Wade Parker, Kelsey Root-Winchester, Bruce Stevens

Administration: None

Members of the Public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair
- II. Discussion with Atty. Mark Oettinger. His advice included:
 - A. Goal #1 is to “leave us alone”
 - B. Possibility of getting a Legislative change
 1. We need to get the local Legislators involved. If they occupy key positions, get them involved. Senators are more helpful than Representatives. Get them on Board!
 - C. We are already a Unified Union School District, which was a marriage back in the ‘60’s
 - D. Notice must be at least 30 days for vote for one town to withdraw. If this were done now, a vote could take place prior to the August 15th meeting of State Board of Ed. Other towns must vote “yes” to permit the town to leave. That town would then have instant school choice in or out of the state. Sending district must pay the tuition.
 - E. Another possible outcome would be to stop having Grades 9-12 or 7-12 and have school choice. Would require a vote by the combined electorate of the entire Union School District. If vote is to change grade range, then have to get approval of the State Board of Ed.
 - F. If a vote is going to be taken, it would be more effective sooner rather than later.
 - G. If we were to write Articles, they could be structured such that no grade ranges in a school would be changed without a vote of the electorate.
 - H. The building and 53 acres belong to the BMU electorate.
 - I. Priorities that Mr. Oettinger has heard tonight that should be included in any Articles: “We want confirmation that our elementary grades will not be usurped without a vote of the electorate. We want confirmation that our high school will not be closed down in less than 6 years. We want confirmation that the 53 acres will stay in the ownership of the electorate.”
 - J. Just as they can’t take your assets, they can’t impose their debts on you.

- K. Explain what you want in the lens of the best interest of the kids
- III. Discussion of a Vote
 - A. Have a public forum before the vote
 - B. Motion by Bruce Stevens, seconded by Judy Murray to schedule an advisory vote with a tentative date of August 14, 2018. Motion voted and approved unanimously
 - C. The Board Chair will reach out to find a facilitator for the public forum
- IV. Update on Board on OESU Meeting
 - A. A Joint Meeting is being scheduled, to include representatives from Newbury, Bradford, Oxbow, and BMU Boards
- V. Action
 - A. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Bruce Stevens to have Angeline Alley, Judy Murray, and Julie Oliver serve on the ad hoc committee to meet with Newbury, Bradford, and Oxbow. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- VI. Consent Agenda
 - A. Motion by Judy Murray, seconded by Paul Hazel to approve the Board minutes of June 27, 2018. Motion voted on and approved with one abstention (Sara Dennis).
 - B. Motion by Bruce Stevens, seconded by Paul Hazel to approve the Board minutes of July 6, 2018. Motion voted on and approved with four abstentions (Julie Oliver, Wade Parker, Kelsey Root-Winchester, and Bruce Stevens)
 - C. Board Orders will be approved by committee
- VII. Correspondence
 - A. Letter from Groton Select Board—in packet
 - B. Letter from Kristen Murray with research she has done on possible responses to the Secretary's Plan
- VIII. Setting the Next Agenda
 - A. Community Relations Committee was charged with organizing the response to the State Board and will meet Monday, July 16, 2018 6:00 PM
 - B. Pre-Board will meet Friday, July 13, 2018 at 8:30 AM
 - C. To-Do List needs to include things needing to be done to prepare for school in August
 - D. Ad hoc committee will meet at 6:00 PM on July 18, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.