

Minutes
Secondary Education Financial Planning Advisory Committee
November 18, 2020 6PM via ZOOM

Attendees: Jim Dow, Blue Hill Selectboard; Ben Wooten, Blue Hill School board; Deborah Brewster, Brooklin Selectboard; Mike Sealander, Brooklin School board; Matt Freedman, Brooksville School board; Kathy MacArthur, Castine School board; Jim Goodman, Penobscot School board; Ben Astbury, Sedgwick Selectboard; Kelly Samperi, Sedgwick School board; Sommer Anderson, Sedgwick School board; Bill Matlock, Surry Selectboard; Michelle Berger, Surry School board; Mark Hurvitt, Superintendent Union 93; Sally Mills, GSA Trustee; Jim Crawford, GSA Trustee; Deborah Ludlow, GSA Trustee; Samantha Politte, GSA Trustee

1. Opened the meeting with a discussion of the goals of the committee.
 - a. Transparency - sharing GSA's finances as well as other pertinent information
 - b. Tuition Increase - GSA is asking for \$1000 per student over the MAT for the 2021-22 school year
 - c. Open Communication between our 7 tuitioning towns and GSA
 - d. Provide public officials with tools so they can talk to their constituents about GSA

2. What is the structure of the committee going forward?
 - a. Co-chairs was suggested with a representative from GSA, a school board person, and a select board person
 - b. Suggestions for agenda items from Committee Members
 - c. The committee is large for a working committee. We will break into smaller working groups reporting back to the larger committee. Two working groups were discussed:
 - i. Gather the tools and build a story for public officials to discuss GSA and the tuition increase at town meetings. What differentiates GSA from other high schools in our surrounding communities?
 - ii. There are many options for GSA to obtain an increased tuition and all options should be considered and properly vetted. For example: Warrant, Referendum, Parent Vouchers, etc. Last year all towns did not use the same method or the same wording for the warrant article, is it advantageous for towns to all use the same method/wording? Should the warrant article or referendum be dependent upon other towns voting in favor of a tuition increase?

3. GSA Trustees did a brief summary of the tuition increase and the events over the past year.

4. Discussion Topics for future meetings:
 - a. How many students on the peninsula choose GSA and why do they choose GSA over other high schools?
 - b. What is the current status of the boarding program and what is the future of that program?
 - c. Provide a specific breakdown of cuts already made to GSA's budget. What has happened to the budget over the past 20 years that the MAT no longer covers the expenses?

Next Meeting: December 28, 2020 at 5:30PM

Respectfully Submitted, S.Politte