

Minutes  
Secondary Education Financial Planning Advisory Committee  
April 26, 2021 7PM via ZOOM

Attendees: Jim Dow, Blue Hill Select Board; Ben Wooten, Blue Hill School Board; Jim Goodman, Penobscot School board; Ben Astbury, Sedgwick Select Board; Jared Benner, Surry School Board; Betsy Armstrong, Surry Select Board; Kathy MacArthur, Castine School Board; Matt Friedman, Brooksville School Board; Stacia Nevin, Brooklin Select Board; Mark Hurvitt, Superintendent Union 93; Sally Mills, GSA Trustee; Deborah Ludlow, GSA Trustee; Samantha Politte, GSA Trustee

Guests: Jeffery Roth, Penobscot Bay Press; Ron Schneider, Bernstein Shur

Sally Mills chaired the meeting.  
At 7:05PM the meeting was called to order.

R. Schneider summarized the memo distributed to the committee on April 25th. The goal of the memo is to address concerns of the committee and articulate how town academies operate.

B. Wooten asked that GSA consider reactivating the joint board.

R. Schneider addressed the issue of 'taxation without representation'. School districts have an obligation to educate their residents. Towns have chosen school choice over having their own public schools and they have elected to engage with private schools.

M. Friedman said it is understood that GSA is a private entity and it is problematic to have elected officials on the board. Nominated people on the board shows some promise. However, public meetings are not prohibited by law and should be further explored.

R. Schneider agreed that public meetings are not explicitly prohibited however they are problematic and they do have serious implications for GSA maintaining its status as a private school. He asked what do people hope to gain out of public meeting and suggested that there are other ways to achieve that.

J. Benner hopes to gain more discussion around the budget and agreed that quarterly public forums to go over the budget line by line would be a positive step.

B. Wooten asked how nominated trustees promoted open communications.

J. Dow addressed concerns with the contract, specifically the length of 10 years, however this discussion was tabled for the next meeting due to the late hour.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully Submitted, S.Politte