

Newmarket Joint Advisory Committee
Minutes
September 25, 2014

The initial meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:15 pm. The meeting was co-facilitated by Randy Bell and Jane Bergeron.

Attendees:

Committee Members: Darby Johnson, Gail Durocher-Wentworth, Tom Jennings, Nathan Lunney, Mike Hoffman, Gary Levy, and Larry Giddings

Consultants: Jane Bergeron, Bernie Davis, and Randy Bell

Superintendent: Mike Martin

Introductions were made and Committee members were welcomed to the process.

Future meeting dates:

The committee meetings are set for Tuesdays when the Town Council and School Board are meeting on Wednesday and Thursday.

Meetings schedule:

- October 14
- Monday, November 3 (due to elections)
- November 18
- December 2
- December 16

The meetings are scheduled from 7:00 – 8:30pm in either the Town Council Chambers or the Town Auditorium depending on availability.

Future meeting main topics of discussion:

- October 14 – tuition options
- November 3 – public forums and focus groups
- November 18 – facilities options

Procedures:

- Minutes are to be a reflection of discussion topics and actions taken
- Agendas will be posted in advance of the meetings
- Materials either sent to Committee members or distributed at the meeting will also be posted
- Minutes will be posted as well

Other topics:

- The Committee will operate on a discussion and consensus basis, and Jane Bergeron will generally facilitate the meetings. After discussion, it was decided not to appoint a chair and vice-chair of the Committee. Votes can be

taken on any specific issue if necessary, but will not be the primary mode of operation.

- Jane Bergeron reviewed the Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee (attached) and discussed ground rules for meetings including focusing on issues, freedom of discussion and mutual respect.
- A discussion about public input was held. It was decided to include public input at the beginning of the meeting and to ask those offering input to follow the same ground rules Committee members will follow.
- Major points of discussion included the “aggressive” timeline for completing the project and issuing a report by December 15. Concerns were expressed about being able to complete the work in such a short time period.
- The Committee then decided to meet on September 30 at 7:00 (not listed above) to begin discussion of tuition options.
- Questions were raised regarding building size and costs. Some general numbers were given by Randy Bell relating to square feet per pupil and costs per square foot for construction.

Public input:

- Public input included concerns regarding changing demographics in New Hampshire and their impact on Newmarket.
- A second member of the public recommended the Committee commit to an eventual advocacy position, and not only to a fact-finding mission, once the final report was accepted. Some discussion ensued about the term “selling” the report.
- A third member of the public voiced a concern about lack of faculty/staff representation on the Committee. It was recommended that a clear way for their voice to be heard be established. A faculty/staff liaison to the Committee would be one way to do this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING: September 30, 2014 7:00pm Town Council Chambers

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Bell and Jane Bergeron