

Dublin Education Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2024

Attendees Committee: Blake Anderson, Andy Freeman, Bill Gurney, Andy Hungerford, Peter Imhoff, Jesse Marcum, Blake Minckler, Carole Monroe, Jay Schechter, Jon Sistare

Other Attendees: Judy Knapp, Karl Eckilson, John Wood

1. Minutes Approval - Feb 13, 2024 B Anderson moved as amended, J Marcum second, all in favor
2. Minutes Approval - Feb 20, 2024 B Anderson moved as amended, A Hungerford second, all in favor.
3. Review and prioritize action items for data gathering groups
4. Communication
  - a. Book recommended re: Closing the High School
  - b. DEAC Invited to the Rindge, Jaffrey GOP Meeting March 4 (Jim Quale)
  - c. Review Link to the Support Elementary Schools Web Site ,  
<https://supportconvalelementary.com>
  - d. Discussed a presentation to ConVal School Board
  - e. Frank Edelblut would like to present/answer questions at one of our meetings
    - i. Would he take questions from the public?
    - ii. We would like him to provide us a contact at NH DOE who could walk through the process with us.
    - iii. B Minckler - F Edelblut is an advocate for charter schools, polarizing person for our citizens to ask questions.
    - iv. B Anderson – Frank Edelblut is the Commissioner of Education. A Town Hall style event could be organized in such a way where we could discuss current issues, not to make a case for an outcome, just to facilitate discussion.
    - v. A Hungerford - The DEAC should not be politicized, comments could be limited to a respectful 3 minutes,
    - vi. P Imhoff – What the Committee needs is someone in Concord who knows the process, and can help us to understand the process. As a politician, Frank Edelblut may not be that person. NH DOE will not allow us to leave district without a contiguous plan, what are our option?
    - vii. A Freeman - We need to focus on our goals and not get involved in those out of our scope.
    - viii. B Anderson - billing it as a town hall event rather than a political event will allow the public to learn more about our educational environment and not advocate for a specific point of view. If our Mission is clear, we will be better off.
    - ix. J Wood – We should wait until after the March vote. Will sponsoring this town hall event put this committee in a conflict of interest?
    - x. J Sistare – We need someone who can go through the options, which have worked best, and follow the legal process.
    - xi. J Marcum - we really need a person who can guide us through the process, not F Edelblut, he's not the expert.
    - xii. We will lose support if there is a perception that we are leaning in one direction or the other without having concluded our work.

5. B Anderson made the following motion, Second by B Minckler, all in favor. – Move that :
  - a. J Schechter, in an individual capacity, can determine whether he accepts the Rindge Republican invitation to discuss education issues in the Monadnock region,
  - b. J Schechter, will formally request the designation of a functional contact with a career professional in the Department of Education, to be a resource as to Regulations, Timing, Responsibility and available resources related Dublin’s educational decisions,
  - c. Jay Schechter will respond to the Commissioner of Education’s offer to visit Dublin as follows:
    - i. Dublin citizens would hold a public town hall forum, not a meeting of DEAC,
    - ii. This would be a respectfully conducted and non-political Q&A session for the public,
    - iii. The Commissioner of Ed will request a “working professional resource (2- above),
    - iv. This “town hall” forum will be timed so as to be scheduled after 3/12/24 vote,
    - v. The DEAC Chair will invite a ConVal representative to present in the interest of providing a “balanced” discussion for the public,
    - vi. The meeting will be designed and conducted so as to preserve civility and decorum.
  - d. B Minckler reached out to the Mason School District Chair, has not yet responded.
6. Community Impact – A Hungerford, B Gurney
  - a. Reached out to gather info on impacts of other school closures
  - b. Investigating reasons for not going to public schools
  - c. Discussed with the Facility head (Tim Grasso) of ConVal regarding condition of the school. Building is in fine shape and maintenance on school building is being kept up.
  - d. Discussed impact of education costs on affordable housing
  - e. Discussed community well - DCS and went through the information provided
  - f. Prismatic report included building details.
  - g. Have reached out to DCS parents regarding parent involvement.
  - h. What is the impact of education taxes, and affordability of housing in Dublin
  - i. Are there any issues with the building? answer, No significant issues if we would take over the school.
7. Education Quality J Marcum, B Gurney
  - a. Up by 10 students in 2023
  - b. DCS Proficiency scores in the middle
  - c. There are 20% students with special needs
  - d. Trying to nail down the # of Dublin students attending out of District
  - e. Special needs costs can be catastrophic; however there are funds available for that situation.
  - f. Reviewing costs of educating kids in the school.
  - g. The Tech Center has reduced programs over the last several years
  - h. Cheshire Career Center has 17 programs and they have an agreement with River Valley CC (Keene School District, 1300 high school students)
  - i. We will look into education programs with a focus on high school options, compare opportunities with other communities
  - j. Look into quality data at the state level, disaggregated data, test scores
  - k. Should look at **socioeconomic** data in order to compare school districts
  - l. DCS – performance and growth ranking, how they are in comparison to their peers
  - m. Other Comments

- i. P Imhoff – most tests grades 3,5,7 are also national tests
  - ii. B Anderson - Educational Statistics – rather than relative, or the BEST, ABSOLUTE performance?
  - iii. J Marcum –ABSOLUTE is an impossible metric, how do we define it, No Child Left Behind, tried to do that?
  - iv. How do we define values? Equity, Rigor, Excellence, value of a small school?
  - v. P Imhoff - We will need data to compare different options.
  - vi. B Gurney – Our goals need to be more specific.
  - vii. A Freeman – Best education possible for what we can sustainably afford
  - viii. Where are Dublin students going? B Anderson - Important to get that information, choice to stay in ConVal drops off as the kids go into high school
8. Legal/Financial/Risk Management
- a. Have not met as a group
  - b. Jon follow up on RTK, missing information
    - i. Have not received Bond Information to ensure all debt is current and paid
    - ii. Copy of Deeds, 1916 conveyed lower part to Dublin School Districts, 1938 purchased lot behind school
    - iii. ROW across the lot to remove wood across the lot
    - iv. Adjacent to the field purchased from Scribner (15 acres)1994
    - v. 1995 , Agreed that the Town could use the parking lot and ConVal could use playground
    - vi. Although Article 8 of the Agreement indicates property to be conveyed to ConVal, no conveyance of the deed has been found. This appears to be the same issue in Hancock.
  - c. B Anderson would be interested in knowing if the property has been used as collateral.
  - d. P Imhoff – The Agreement indicates “Sell it back to the town for what it costs and any improvements:” Would it come back to us free and clear?
  - e. Asked for law firms that could give us advice. Atty in Keene works with SAU 29.
9. Next Meeting March 5 at 5:30 at the DubHub, No meeting on March 12, Election Day