

Shaker Mountain School Union #70 Meeting

Hancock Elementary School/Zoom

September 29, 2020

Union Present: Hancock -Alex Kastrinakis (Union Chair), Melissa Turner, Bruce Weiner, New Ashford  
- Brenda Frye, Lori Jayko, Jen Welch

Others Present: Patty Bishop, Mark Gaskill, Jay Merselis, Superintendent and Special Education  
Director Rebecca Phillips

Union on Zoom: Richmond - Dewey Wyatt, Adeline Ellis, Ina Wilhelm

Others on Zoom: Lauren Broussal, Neal Pilson

*DRAFT*

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00
  
2. Reorganize: On a motion by Brenda, seconded by Jen, Alex was voted as Chair of the Union. On a motion by Alex, seconded by Lori, Brenda was voted as Vice-Chair of the Union. On a motion by Brenda, seconded by Melissa, Lori was voted as Secretary of the Union.
  
3. Citizen's Concerns: None.
  
4. Financial: The Union reviewed the financial report.
  
5. Shaker Mountain School Union Discussion: New Ashford and Hancock asked what Richmond's intentions are. Dewey said they extended their shared services contract with Berkshire Hills for this year. They have an Advisory Committee that is examining the options for next year and beyond and have not made any decisions yet.  
Brenda and Alex expressed frustration at Richmond's lack of participation in the Union over the past year. The lack of communication and decisiveness created problems for planning and budgeting. Hancock and New Ashford conducted a Superintendent search and hired their own part-time Superintendent. They are happy with the current arrangement and do not want Richmond to come back in several months and want to share a Superintendent, requiring a new Superintendent search and hiring process. Dewey does not believe that Richmond is a barrier to Hancock and New Ashford's arrangement. Bruce pointed out that Richmond was a barrier last year, that the rest of the Union overcame. Dewey requested that the Union remain intact to leave more opportunities open. Hancock and New Ashford would like stability in the Union.  
Brenda made a motion to dissolve the current Shaker Mountain School Union, seconded by Bruce. The motion passed with five votes in favor, two opposed, and two abstentions.  
Brenda made a motion to reconfigure the Union from three member towns (Richmond, Hancock and New Ashford) to two member towns (Hancock and New Ashford). The motion passed with six votes in favor and three opposed.  
The next step is to submit the information to Christine Lynch from DESE. Town Counsel will rewrite the Union contract for review and signatures.
  
6. Unforeseen Business: None.
  
7. Executive Session: None
  
8. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Brenda, seconded by Bruce at 6:41  
By L Jayko