

**Hillsboro-Deering Cooperative Agreement Committee Meeting
5/24/2021**

Virtual Location:

<https://zoom.us/j/92638649356pwd=dIU4NWhqWlBOZWdZekNsU1VxMjhnUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 3864 9356

Passcode: 685989

Audio by phone: 888 475 4499 US Toll-free; Meeting ID: 926 3864 9356

In attendance: H-D Superintendent, Patricia Parenteau; Business Manager, H-D Mary Henry; H-D School Board Chair, H-D Herla Iadonisi; H-D School Board member, Dr. Jessica Morris, Hillsboro Town Selectman, JP Stohrer

Deering Members were invited to attend via email. None were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

Introductions of participants

Mary quickly reviewed the presentation that was previously given at the H-D school board meeting.

Adequacy Aid guidelines were reviewed

Herla suggested that anyone who has not seen Mary's presentation to please review the recording

Herla: Deering students gain the benefits of other assistance that is from the Title I benefits program.

Mary: We share the special education costs. There are really benefits to being a cooperative. If Deering is on its own, it will cost more than it does now.

Herla: Asked if Mary has similar demographic information from other cooperatives to share. Some Deering community members come to school board meetings to speak about this.

Mary: Shared other cooperative information in the state of NH. We specifically looked at similar demographics. Jaffrey-Rindge recently decided not to separate. Wilton-Lyndeborough, Henniker-Weare. The formulas were explored. Population, valuation, and other factors contribute to changes in the numbers across the state of NH cooperatives. Regardless of the way we shift the formula, there will be a benefit to Deering and Hillsboro will pay more. Warrant article, petitioned warrants, formulations were discussed.

The only way that Deering benefits is when you hit the ADM and make that apportionment higher is the only way that Deering gains. 60/40 split was discussed. Capital purchases, SAU costs, and other portions were discussed.

Patty asked about the SAU formula and changes that could occur. Patty believes this will be a harder sell since it's formula based. Washington and Windor are tuitioned and would not be affected. It would need to be voted on separately. There was discussion around this topic.

Herla has asked to have various scenarios to be explored with numbers and data and options that are available to bring to the board.

Mary will do an in-depth dive into other cooperatives and find specific examples to share and also create option examples.

Herla: We were hoping to gain input from people representing the towns. The RSA does ask that a selectman from each town be invited. As a cooperative there should be a voice representing each town.

Herla: Anything that the school board places as a warrant article it would need to pass by the Hillsboro voters. This committee was formed to build rapport and to work together, but it does come down to the voters.

Patty: Hillsboro gets additional funding due to the number of homeless, special education, free and reduced lunch, etc. Perhaps Deering does not realize this. Each town is 50/50, but because Hillsboro gets more aid from the state, the numbers shift. This is a piece that plays into this.

Herla: This is a huge piece and the values...this is why it is the way it is.

Discussion around the home value difference between the two towns. Deering's home values are higher.

Mary shared her screen to show the amounts of the funding for adequacy aid for the two towns. There are large variations in several categories. The fiscal disparity aid was not awarded to Deering, but was awarded to Hillsboro. Discussion ensued. The statewide education tax and disparity aid is very different in Hillsboro and Deering and it comes down to the values in the town. Deering does not qualify for as much aid as Hillsboro does. Further discussion. Adequacy aid changes and fluctuates each year based on what is occurring in each of the towns.

JP: These are state guided formulas. Does understand Deering's frustration. School board seats were discussed. All seats are voted by both towns. All five represent both towns. One seat must live in Hillsboro, one seat must live in Deering, the other three can live in either.

Herla: The cooperative agreement has been reviewed several times, and did not change after any of the previous reviews. We need to show options that can be explored. All we have control over is working to help people understand the formula and present the options.

Future meeting times were discussed. Tuesday June 1st 7-8 pm via Zoom will be the next meeting. We want to be thorough and not rush the process. We will again aim to have Deering selectboard members in attendance.

State of NH funding issues were discussed. It is hopeful that the current lawsuit will change the inequities in funding. Discussion around this topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48