

Erving Elementary Sub-Committee Meeting

November 1, 2023 6-7:00 pm

Town Library

1. Call to order
2. Minute taker- Lori
3. Committee Members in Attendance

Mark Blatchley
Lori Hale
Melanie Burnett
Aimee Wood
Dan Hammock

Public attendance:

Caitlin Sheridan
Steve Blinder
Scott Bastarache
Beth Erviti
Julian Mendoza

4. No recommendations made to change the committee name.

5. Brainstorming Information / Possible Sources we may choose from to research further:

- Community survey
- Staff and faculty survey
 - Do we wait for the survey until we have information to share?
- Financial implications for Erving and other towns
- What is the actual process to withdraw?
- What approval / steps are needed with DESE?
- What personnel would be required /needed?
- What is the structure of an independent school?
- How many positions do we have to have to structure an independent school?
 - Warwick could be a resource or another school in the Berkshires (the only two we know of now)
- Recommendation that we read the study completed by the superintendent's office of the functions of the schools in the union. Look at recommendations they made.
- What are we looking for in leaving? What is the purpose? What does it provide? Why are we at the table looking into this?
 - Recommendation by Dick Newton, others?
- What is the town's role in overseeing the school if we became independent?
- What are the pros and cons internally? It is not just financial. How does it impact the school children and staff?
- We are not part of a district with a high school of our own, is there an impact there if we become independent? Brief discussion about Northfield / Gill Montague regionalizing and Erving losing its contract for high school if that occurs anyway. Would this also have an effect?
- When the town passed the resolution years ago, was any research completed?

On hold: Difficulties with a superintendent, how often has it been a problem for Erving? How often is it a problem in any district?

- Commentary to not pursue this now because we need to focus on fact finding and stay away from emotion and personal feelings.

Chris Mark Blatchley