

Lamoine Withdrawal Committee Meeting November 12, 2012
Lamoine School 6:30 p.m.
Minutes

Present: Jones, McFarland, Stewart, Donaldson

Brett called the meeting to order at 6:40.

1. The RSU has not made written counterproposals to what we delivered to them and negotiated on October 22. Gordon sent a version of their position to S. Lukas Nov. 7, asking her to confirm it so we had something to respond to.
2. We discussed our positions on what we think their positions are as follows:

Section 7C – central admin contracts

LWC position: Offer to sign on for two years to the Food Service, Special Ed, and possibly IT services provided by the RSU in exchange for having no obligation to these admin contracts; they would quote us a cost to do so and we could decide if that's in our best interest.

Rationale: Spec. Ed and IT are going to be difficult services to get up and running right away; the Food Service seems to be a good deal.

Back-up Position: Current version (no obligation) with the date changed to November 6, 2013 (the day after traditional election day).

Section 12 Add a section: "Purchased Vehicles"

LWC Position: We'll agree if RSU adds back the purchased buses.

Rationale: we helped pay for these buses and we're not "taking them with us; you're keeping them to use". We're dropping the "lease to purchase" buses and vehicles.

Back-up Position: Settle for half the buses

Section 12 C (1) the 2% balance-forward issue

The RSU has agreed to our 10/22 proposal (verbal only, so far)

Section 12 D the "cap" on RSU's obligation to reimburse withdrawing towns

The RSUB is discussing their position on this this week or next in preparation for Nov 26/27 negotiations. They, hopefully, will send us a written counterproposal.

Section 14 (4) "termination" date

The RSU has agreed to one year, as per our 10/22 proposal (verbal only, so far)

High School Contract: We handed the RSU a draft Nov. 5. They are supposed to be taking this up as a Board this week or next in prep for our next session Nov. 26 or 7th.

LWC Position: Keep the choice of EHS and SMHS for our students; the proposed contract is very unlikely ever to be invoked, as “high school choice” will almost certainly continue through the next 10 years.

Back-up Position: Get a signed 5-year agreement with MDIHS.

3. Best time to hold the final vote

We don't expect to have an agreement until February, at the rate we're going. We think we'll need at least 4 months after that to:

- a. Plan what sort of new district we prefer; get together with other towns; think about central office and budgets; and develop a total town school budget.
- b. Assemble this information along with the financial and other aspects that the Withdrawal Agreement commits us to; come up with a practical info packet for the public, “What Will It Mean When We Withdraw”?
- c. Hold a variety of information and q&a sessions leading up to the vote.

LWC Position: November 5, 2013. It will be essential to hold the vote simultaneously with Ellsworth and Hancock. We should wait until after Malaby's bill has been heard, advocated for, and voted on (June at the latest). November is the “best chance” date for Ellsworth. This will give us adequate planning time (see a – c above) for a solid plan to be in a new district July 1, 2014.

4. Next Negotiation Session

We are all available Nov 26 and 27. The RSUB wants to negotiate with Hancock and Lamoine together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Stewart, Secretary