

NEGOTIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING-September 30, 2014

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD TUITION NEGOTIATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING with PINKERTON MINUTES

Friday, October 17, 2014

Location of Meeting: Pinkerton Academy

CALL TO ORDER

J. McHugh called the Sub-committee Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Hooksett Members: Dr. Phil Littlefield, Joanne McHugh, Amy Boilard, Michael Berry

Pinkerton Members: Brad Ek, Mark Wright, Dr. Timothy Butterfield, William Nevious,

Kimberly Smith, Griffin Morse.

PROOF OF POSTING

Dr. Littlefield provided proof of posting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Wright, Pinkerton: Understanding that everything discussed is subject to final approval by the Board of Trustees, we have been given some latitude with which to work. The overriding concerns of the Board were:

1. We are respected by the sending towns due to an element of fairness
2. The structure of current agreements provides for planning, staffing, and programming.
3. Need to demonstrate positive revenue stream which dictates the length of a contract
4. Duty to the employees that they are being hired for the long term
5. Current contracts are either 20 years or 10 year rolling contract as with Auburn

Pinkerton was challenged by you to think out of the box. The Board was receptive to that and has come up with a proposal:

1. A 10 year contract
2. No student minimum for the first 3 years
3. In the fourth year, minimum based on the previous 3 year average percentage of students selecting Pinkerton.

**All other contracts with sending districts are 10-20 years with a 90% student minimum.*

Dr. Littlefield: For clarification, our history doesn't count and we will start to count in the year 2016-17, 18, and 19?

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Mark Wright: That is all up for discussion. This is a starting point. If we can agree in concept, we can work out the details. I am confident that our numbers will remain the same or improve. Our goal is to gain some surety. You would need to commit a certain number of students and that translates to dollars. Hooksett must guarantee tuition times students. This would be a rolling 10 year with an opt out in 5 years.

M. Berry: Would this need to go before the voters every 5 years?

Dr. Littlefield: If the contract states the School Board has the ability to extend the contract, no vote would be required.

A. Boilard: What is your population forecast for the next 5 years?

Dr. Butterfield: The trend is down. This Board is trying to keep that number level. We don't have optimal numbers. It comes down to economy of scale. We have about 3000 to 3200 students.

J. McHugh: Do you foresee a capacity issue in the future?

William Nevius: We don't see reaching capacity anytime in the near future.

J. McHugh: Will this be an issue for the other sending districts?

Mark Wright: I can't predict what the other districts will do however times and education is changing. We would be derelict in our responsibilities if we didn't address our declining population. There are only a few towns in the area that fit our district. Hooksett is unique geographically and we recognize that.

J. McHugh: When calculating the percentage, do you count all students including those that choose private schools?

Mark Wright: I think that is a small number but we can work out those details.

Dr. Littlefield: I will not participate in any discussion that causes a conflict with Auburn.

Mark Wright: The few years with Hooksett; what does that do? It shows other town the sky didn't fall with the addition of Hooksett students; it improved and lowered tuition. The few years have shown there is no negative effect.

William Nevius: I have never seen the Board of Trustees this flexible.

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A. Boilard: Is there any capital costs or hidden costs?

Mark Wright: We have trust funds and champagne for excellence. We were the last Division 1 School to get lights on the fields. We did that without raising tuition. There was no supplemental bill to towns. In the last 10 or 11 years, we have returned money back to the districts.

The Pinkerton Advantage:

- Trust Funds available to offset costs
- History
- A conservative philosophy
- We have an extremely hardworking Board with a commitment to Pinkerton and are “A” Political
- We don’t have to deal with changing Mayor or selectmen. It frees us to do what we need to do
- Our staff does not feel they need a union.

William Nevios: Financial, we would be a great partner to Hooksett because what we do well financial would help Hooksett.

Mark Wright: The past two (2) one year agreements with Hooksett were “Olive Branches”. This proposal is an “Olive Tree”.

Summary:

1. Hooksett will discuss this proposal with their entire Board at the October 21st meeting.
2. Both Boards would need to discuss the terms with their legal counsel
3. In an effort to speed the process and in good faith, Pinkerton has made its best offer.

Dr. Littlefield: I hope we can stay on the fast track for voter approval. We know from experience that “last minute” doesn’t fly. The timeline is Warrant Articles by the first week in January because traditionally these Articles go through the Budget Committee. Any money Article goes through the Budget Committee. Given these timeframes, we should have a signed contract by the end of November.

The next meeting will be Friday, October 30th at 2:00 pm at Pinkerton Academy.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McHugh adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Ann Moynihan