

[DRAFT]

Croydon School District

Sustainability Committee: 4 January 2022

The Sustainability Committee is a committee of citizens comprised of parents, citizens, and a school board member charged with looking at future enrollments, financing, the role in the community, and school configuration to plan for maintaining the school in future years. This committee would advise the Board and make recommendations to the Board.

- A. Call to Order at 6:33: Aaron McKeon
- B. Attendance
 - 1. Committee Member Roll Call
 - i. Aaron McKeon – present
 - ii. Brenda Williams – present
 - iii. Jan Mitchel – present
 - 2. Others Present
 - i. Frank Perotti
 - ii. Nicole Lackie
 - iii. Beth Bierworth
 - iv. Four members of the public present (three in person, one virtual)
- C. Previous Minutes
 - 1. Reviewed previous minutes
 - 2. Aaron motioned to approve minutes from the last meeting, Jan seconded, motion passed 3-0
- D. Town Planning
 - 1. Frank spoke to Sullivan County and they don't have any planning services
 - 2. He was referred to UNH and has not been able to connect to the person who covers this area
 - 3. Frank presented a report from the Department of Labor; he concluded that the population is very stable; no insights into future trends
- E. Tuitioning Out
 - 1. Aaron presented the financial model he had developed with Beth, which compared three options: status quo, tuitioning out 3-12 (keeping K-2 at Croydon Village School), and tuitioning out all students
 - 2. The numbers suggest an annual savings of \$145k if tuitioning out all students, although it was brought up in discussion that this does not include any impact of needing to replace the white building and/or conduct any major repairs to the red building
 - 3. Additional areas for cost reduction could include transportation (if Newport provides transportation), and/or additional savings from repurposing the red building
 - 4. Discussed requirement for a superintendent and special education oversight regardless of whether or not students are tuitioned out; Beth referenced section 302.02 of NH education law as requiring oversight of special needs children

5. The scenario of keeping K-2 in Croydon is unconvincing from a financial perspective (there would be no cost savings due mostly to still requiring teaching staff)
6. There are currently 6 children in the red building plus kitchen space, bathrooms, etc.
7. Spoke about school choice as being a bragging point that realtors use to sell properties
8. There are approximately four students coming in in future years, which would keep things stable for the foreseeable future, but there are 9 students that will move onto grade 5 in two years, which could drop ongoing enrollment numbers below 20
9. Different perspectives were raised by members of the public present as well as committee members; teachers at Sunapee have commented on how well prepared Croydon students are; the village school is a point of pride for the town; school choice is a defining characteristic of Croydon and the move in that direction was strongly supported by the town; a variable cost structure (school choice) is easier to manage than a fixed cost structure; the town would be heavily impacted by Newport's tuition rates by tuitioning out
10. The topic of conducting a survey of residents regarding their opinions on the subject was raised and discussed
11. The topic of the district meeting was discussed and whether or not the intent was to ask the town for some kind of decision; this was not the intention of the Sustainability Committee and so far meetings have been to discuss a variety of ideas aimed at how we might deal with declining future enrollments; we discussed putting together a report that can be presented at the district meeting that shows the Committee's findings to-date; we discussed whether or not the Committee would provide an opinion on direction and it was decided to meet again prior to the district meeting to discuss this in greater detail

F. Next Steps

1. The Sustainability Committee to put together a report for presentation at the District Meeting
2. Next meeting will be Wednesday January 19 at 6:30pm

G. Meeting Adjourned at 7:45pm