



TOWN OF MIDDLETON
NEW HAMPSHIRE

WELCOME

*SAU Withdrawal Study Planning
Committee Update*

November 22, 2014



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THE HISTORY





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THE HISTORY

- Over 75% of Middleton voters approved to withdraw from the Farmington/Middleton AREA Agreement
 - THE PLAN-Move 7-12 grade student to Kingswood Regional Middle and High School through a tuition agreement with Governor Wentworth Regional School District and build a K-6 elementary school in Middleton





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THE HISTORY

- In 2014 a voter petition was brought forward to withdraw from SAU 61
 - *AREA Agreement and SAU are two different matters.*
 - *Withdrawal from AREA Agreement Did not include withdrawal from SAU services*
 - *This withdrawal is indeed a separate process*
 - Some of the Reasons:
 - Budgeting and fiscal responsibility concerns
 - History and conflict moving forward
 - Middleton's goals for education not aligned
 - Expanding demographical differences since the creation of the AREA Agreement in 1973
- Article #9 was placed on the ballot regarding SAU 61
 - Formation of a committee to study and prepare a plan of withdrawal from SAU61





THE HISTORY

- SAU Withdrawal Study and Planning Committee was determined by voters to be next steps
- Outreach was made to bring in community members interested in participating in the study
 - Moderator Jack Savage appointed 4 members-at-large with the other members making up the committee according to RSA requirements
- Over 10 committee meetings have convened since July 14th





Committee Members

Middleton School Board Members

Kenneth Garry, Committee Chair

Todd La Pierre

Middleton Budget Committee

Kathleen Landry

Middleton Members at Large

Evelyn Campbell

Kimberly Bedard-Fortin

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan

Superintendent of Schools

Steven Welford



- Every member agreed, the goal was:
 - To research ALL options and create an optimal plan to the school district
 - Secure stable and highly qualified SAU services





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THE PROCESS

- Committee members met actively to discuss all the options available to Middleton
- Determinations were made to isolate viable options available
 - Viable equated to financially responsible options for the taxpayer as well as best interest to Middleton Students aligned with community goals
- Tasks were assigned for any open items needed for additional research and team continued this process.





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COMMITTEE FINDINGS

- The committee was presented with 5 viable options based on requirements provided by the committee.
- After carefully considering all of these options, the SAU Study Committee decided that Option 1 was in the best interest of Middleton students and the community
 - Contract with Governor Wentworth Regional School District (GWRSD) for superintendent services





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COMMITTEE INFLUENCING FACTORS

- **Accreditation**
 - The importance of this aligns with Middleton's educational philosophy
- **Proposed long term savings**
 - Assurance and evidence that Middleton will be getting quality services for the education of students and reduction in overall costs
- **Seamless alignment with GWRSD curriculum**
 - Allows for a seamless transition into middle school by Middleton Students
- **Withdrawal of the Middleton School District would restore Farmington as a single district SAU**
 - This would permit SAU 61 to focus all superintendent services on the Farmington School District
 - It is mutually beneficial to both Farmington and Middleton students that each district engages in independent Superintendent Services





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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- I. The committee will review public hearing commentary
- II. Middleton Board will approve a proposed Superintendent Service contract with SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District (GWRSD)
- III. GWRSD Board needs to approve contract
- IV. Committee approves SAU Withdrawal Plan
- V. Committee submits Plan to State Board of Education for review and comment first week of December
- VI. If necessary, committee reconvenes to address State Board comments
- VII. Middleton residents vote on plan





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Resources

- The Withdrawal Plan is available at the Middleton Municipal Building for review
 - See Laura Parker
- Visit www.middletonnh.gov
- NH statute for Withdrawal from School Administrative Units, NH RSA 194-C:2 is available here:
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194-C/194-C-2.htm>

Ken Garry

Committee Chair

473-8521

