

**In Attendance:** Tracey Whitney, Willard Morgan, Jason Putnam, Terry Heller, Sarah Whitfield, Deb Pooler, Beth Bluteau, Doug Merrill, Kim Anderson, Pat Cloutier, Duane Goud

**Meeting Called to Order: 6:05 PM**

**Approval Items**

Minutes from September 16, 2024

*Deb Pooler made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Tracey Whitney Seconded. All in favor.*

**Discussion**

• **From the “Tuition Out” subcommittee**

Survey questions for information gathering were presented. The questions would be sent to superintendents of surrounding area schools.

1. Reword question 2, “Would your school system have capacity to absorb approximately 100 students?”
2. Write an introduction summary when sending the questions.
3. Ask Kim to make contact instead of coming from the committee.

• **From “Status Quo” subcommittee.**

Reasons not to close the school

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Obligation to educate our children               | 7. Subcontracting not good example to our kids |
| 2. lose local control of process                    | 8. hard to replace once it closes              |
| 3. school exists, is well maintained                | 9. affects WCC                                 |
| 4. largest employer in town                         | 10. Succession important for success           |
| 5. possible savings not guaranteed                  |  |
| 6. Having no HS may prevent people from moving here |  |

Promote Growth

1. Increase enrollment by: Recruiting, public relations, and relationship building
2. Make improvements to: Comprehensive needs assessment; leveraging grant funds; staff development and retention; capital improvement planning; and safety, academics, engagement, staffing, leadership, and management

• **From “regional school” subcommittee**

Things to consider

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Location                  | 5. Benefits/cost savings |
| 2. Process                   | 6. Current capacity      |
| 3. Towns                     | 7. Improvements          |
| 4. Existing school of choice |                          |

• **Other**

1. Survey questions should include questions from all subcommittees
2. Dresden is a year and a half ahead of Wiscasset in the process.
3. Next steps are to take report to selectboard
4. Reports based on 3 separate criteria
5. Current rates get reset in December. Lincoln Academy has a different formula and is more expensive.
6. Sarah will get the file from Dresden’s future of the school report and send the link, subcommittees review report and determine format.

• **Next Steps**

Future of Wiscasset Schools Committee  
Monday, October 21, 2024

1. Who we need to speak to and what we need to ask.
2. Who should be invited to talk to the committee.

*Tracey Whitney motioned to adjourn. Deb Pooler seconded. All in favor*

**Meeting adjourned 6:54**

**Next meeting Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM at Wiscasset town office**

Respectively Submitted,  
Beth Bluteau