

# MEETING MINUTES

## FULL BOARD & JOINT BOARD NOVEMBER 29, 2022, MEETING OF COALITION COMMUNITIES 2.0

### **A. Meeting Time and Location**

**Date:** November 29, 2022  
**Time:** 2 P.M.  
**Location:** Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group  
1000 Elm St. 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Manchester, NH

### **B. Virtual Attendee Registration**

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### **C. Meeting Agenda**

**1. Call to Order-** Chairman Mark Decoteau, Vice-Chairman Paul Deschaine, Clerk Shaun Mulholland, Terry Murphy. Members present Shannon Martinez Town of Sunapee, Allyson Trager Town of Sunapee. Bruce Berke of Sheehan Capitol Group. Participating virtually; Matt Scruton, Jaci Grote, James Malloy Town of Rye; Michael Tully Town of North Hampton; Jane Ferrini City of Portsmouth; Rich James Town of Hebron; Simon Thorson from Sheehan Capitol Group.

**2. Minutes-** The minutes from the 11/15 meeting were not available.

**3. A. Litigation Update-Steve Rand vs. State of NH –** Mark and Paul provided an update regarding the hearing that occurred on 11/28 in the Rockingham County Superior Court. No decision by Justice Ruoff yet. Hearing on the merits schedule for September or October of 2023. No decision on the TRO or the Coalition’s request for intervenor status.

**B. Discuss litigation costs and potential assessments-** Paul presented a spreadsheet outlining the projected costs of the litigation from our perspective with caveats. The caveats were that the coalition’s position was on the narrower issue of donor towns and not on the larger issue of what constitutes the cost of an adequate education. That cost was projected at approximately \$150,000 in 2023 and \$100,000 in 2024. Paul explained that the cost may be more than anticipated. This is the best estimate that we have now and that there are a lot of unknowns. It is entirely possible that a supplemental appropriation may be necessary sometime during the year (2023).

**MOTION-** made by Terry and second by Paul to approve the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$205,000. After discussion and explanation of the proposed assessments per community a vote was taken by roll call. The members of the Joint Board voted in favor of the motion.

**4. Other Business**

**A. Appointment of Rich James to the Joint Board-** MOTION-made by Shaun and second by Terry to appoint Rich James, Selectmen for the Town of Hebron to fill the vacant position on the Joint Board reserved for an elected official. Vote was taken by roll call. The members of the Joint Board voted in favor of the motion.

**B. Discussion and action on the proposed changes to the MOU –** Paul provided a copy of the changes he proposed to the Coalition Communities Memorandum of Understanding. The changes revolved around language that would articulate the coalitions continuing in operation beyond the initial years established.

MOTION- made by Shaun and second by Terry to recommend the proposed amendments to the MOU be distributed to the membership for consideration and approval by their respective governing bodies. Vote was taken by roll call. The members of the Joint Board voted in favor of the motion.

**C. Appointment of Shannon Martinez to the Joint Board as an Alternate-**  
MOTION-made by Shaun and second Terry to appoint Shannon Martinez, Town Manager for the Town of Sunapee to the Joint Board as an alternate member. Vote was taken by roll call. The members of the Joint Board voted in favor of the motion.

**D. Discussion of the steps by the Coalition to propose proactive legislation-** The Joint Board discussed whether we should ask one or more of our legislators to propose proactive legislation to address the concerns of the coalition. The decision was made that we should not do so at this time.

**E. Contract with Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group for Advocacy Services-** The discussion related to the execution of a proposed agreement with the Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group to provide advocacy, Tier I & II services for the ensuing year (2023) to replace the services provided by the firm of Bernstein Shur.

MOTION- made by Shaun and second by Terry to contract with the Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group to provide advocacy services, Tier I&II for the ensuing year. Vote was taken by roll call. The members of the Joint Board voted in favor, Rich James abstained from the vote as he had not had a chance to review the proposal.

**5. Adjourn-**MOTION made by Shaun and second by Terry to adjourn. The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be on January 17, 2023 (2 PM) at the Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group office located at 2 Eagle Square, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in Concord, NH.

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