

MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMISSION OF CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL BOARD

EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

May 7, 2019 – 6:00PM

Committee Members present: Councilors- Martin Dumont, Chairman; Councilor Don Austin; School Board Members- Mark Richardson & Matt Hanlon

Others & Staff present: Mayor Dana Hilliard; City Manager Bob Belmore; School Superintendent Bob Gadomski; School Board Member/State Rep. Gerri Cannon; and special guest - State Senator David Watters

Chairman Dumont called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – approved, 4-0 vote.

NH Senator, the Honorable David Watters: Legislative updates

The Commission discussed school funding issues and demands with Senator Watters, who distributed copies of HB 2-FN-A-Local – as amended by the House. Watters stated that the Senate will be finalizing their review of the State Budget in about 3-weeks. Councilor Dumont commented about the difficulty of local communities passing their budgets without knowing what the State will include for local aid.

Manager Belmore asked if there was any change in how School building aid would be distributed to local School Districts. Superintendent Gadomski indicated the State DOE had suggested it would come to local communities differently than past funding allocations. The Senator stated the process should be the same however he would check with DOE to be certain.

The Commission asked about funding to assist in the Middle School need of a new elevator, particularly as it relates to assisting Special Needs student/s in getting to class rooms. Watters stated he would check on the possibility of State Emergency Building Aid being a fit for this particular need.

There was a robust discussion regarding home schooling education criteria. Mayor Hilliard conveyed concerns about the lack of accountability on home schooling criteria and how School truancy was now being linked back to parental positioning on home schooling. Senator Watters stated he would do some research on the issue and get back to the Mayor to work with him on possible legislation. State Rep. Gerri Cannon offered to work with the Senator too, Watters suggested she reach out to start the conversation with her appropriate colleagues at the House. The Senator also commented that the present State Budget under review did have an increase in School

Aid attached to it as well as more funding to address mental health issues. Senator Watters left the meeting.

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Misc.

Mayor Hilliard asked the Commission to start a discussion regarding the School use of Millennium Park softball field for its softball sports programs as it has the advantage also of having lights for play into the evening. He suggested that the present School softball field could be redesigned for other sports play. Hilliard stated this Agreement could be similar to the present Agreement the City and School have for the use of the Noble Pines baseball field. Commission members expressed support of this potential arrangement. The City Manager & School Superintendent agreed to start the conversation at their level.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: motion by Austin, 2nd by Richardson; 4-0 approved at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Belmore