

Legislative Task Force Meeting Minutes 8.30.2023

7:00 PM Call to order – Chair Jim MacEachern

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Councilor James MacEachern, Councilor Erin Spencer, Councilor David Granese, School Board Member Cairnie Pokorny, School Board David Clapp, State Representative David Milz, State Representative Erica Layon, State Senator Regina Birdsell, Town Clerk Tina Guilford

School Update – This meeting was called to discuss school funding. Derry is the #3 district behind Manchester and Nashua. In the current budget just passed by the State, the hold harmless is 4.7M. Starting in FY26, that number will have a 10% loss per year until it is gone. A 2% a year increase does not cover the district costs yearly.

Legislative Update – Senator Birdsell stated that on Monday, herself, David and Jodi met with Senator Lang. The hold harmless goes down and that districts need to plan for it. From 2009-2012 the number of 6064 students was used to figure the funding. Now in 2022 the number is 4568. In the past the numbers focused more on the total number of students. Now the formula focuses more on the Free and Reduced lunch numbers as need based. For Special Ed funding the plan now is to adjust the numbers every 2 years for the funding purposes. There is legislation being worked on to change how schools receive building aid. Rather than a large pot of money and schools competing, there is discussion to send money to every school district by size. It allows for more individualized assistance.

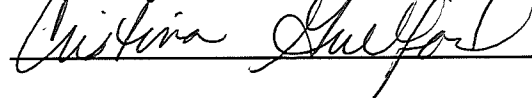
Summary

Maybe the school district needs to look at retained funds being tied into a building aid capital account.

Meeting ADJORNED by

Adjourn: 8:18 PM

Minutes by: Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cristina Guilford", is written over a horizontal line.