

Minutes for Ways and Means Committee Meeting on February 15th, 2023.

Location: Brick School, Amherst NH

Attendance: Dwayne Purvis, Mike Akillian, Rick Barnes, Greg Fritz (left meeting approximately 6:40pm), Mozammel Husainy, Jeff Candito, Tom Gauthier (ASD Board Chair). Attendance via Zoom: Steve Frades, Marilyn Gibson, Kelly Mullin.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:15pm by Chairman Purvis. A discussion began regarding the Ways and Means Tax Estimator being removed from the Ways and Means webpage on the SAU 39 website. ASD school board Chair Gauthier commented that the tax estimator was removed because he felt it had not been properly vetted by school and town administration. He said the decision to remove it from the website was solely his decision. The committee demonstrated how the estimator worked using real tax information to substantiate that it was accurate, and that the assumptions were transparent. The committee decided to repost the tax estimator back onto the website and Chair Gauthier said he would not lobby to remove it again.

The next discussion was on the SAU Budget report. The Committee discussed the ASD board's comments on the report with Chair Gauthier.

The next discussion was on how the Committee would respond to Facebook posts. The Committee decided to create a rapid-response team to respond to these posts, and to allow the team to use its own discretion in terms of which posts to respond to, and in terms of the content of the responses. This team would consist of Mike Akillian, Steve Frades, and Dwayne Purvis.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.