

CHARLEMONT School Sustainability Review Committee

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 5:30 PM, Hawlemont School Library

ATTENDING: Wilder Sparks, Ashley Sparks, Bob Handsaker, Evie Locke, Cheryl Handsaker, Rich Filoramo, Victoria Calenti

GUEST: Mary Ann Harvey

Meeting called to order at 5:34

Welcome and Introductions

- Rich Filoramo, Finance Committee and 2D8T Steering Committee Representative
- Mary Anne Harvey - LEC, Substitute Teacher, Community member
- Bob Handsaker - Town moderator and community member
- Evie Locke - Mohawk School Committee Rep
- Cheryl Handsaker- Former Hawlemont Rep
- Wilder Sparks - Selectboard representative, Dad
- Ashley - School Committee, LEC, Mom, former teacher
- Victoria Valenti- Parent

Public Comment

- What does it mean to close Hawlemont - educationally, financially, economically, socially?
- What do we do with the building?
 - How does MSBA's involvement impact the reuse of the building?
 - Perhaps the AAC would come back into the building?
 - Are there differences between public or private educational institutions?
 - What if it is not reused?
- Transportation safety and cost?
 - Get the raw data for the bussing analysis and answer questions on the bussing?
 - Evaluate any data on single bus route impacts for high school and elementary school children
 - Were the transportation numbers based only on the children that ride the bus? Were children with alternate transportation arrangements counted?
- Understand alternatives for a combined facility for elementary and high school?
- How does the tech school factor into the long-term plan?
 - How is Charlemont impacted by the Tech School lottery system?
- What is foundation vs residential enrollment?
- What if we don't need a central campus and we can reuse existing buildings based on enrollment decline?
- Impact of enrollment data conflicts based on the differing future projections and also historical data?
 - How can we attract young families more generally?

- Does residential enrollment define the population that becomes the sustaining group or does school choice percentage impact sustainability?
- A unanimous vote from each member town is needed to modify the regional agreement. Is there be a plan B that is more likely to be successfully unanimous?
- How does regionalization factor into the reimbursement (MSBA rules)?
 - How do regionalization changes impact Charlemont vs district savings?
- Does the high school experience meet the expectations of families - are there things we can do to improve the experience at the high school level?
 - Can we evaluate the sustainability of each tier of education?
 - Elementary
 - Middle School
 - High School
- Review the inputs on the sustainability models to confirm the accuracy and examine how these are impacting the study numbers for moving forward
- PreK doesn't provide transportation - how does this play into enrollment / recruitment and educational experience?
- Learn more about Hawlemont's location in the floodplain. How does this factor into reuse and operational costs?
- Explore the business impact on the closing of the school
- Explore the impact on unemployment if we are reducing the workforce significantly (similar to the closing of Yankee Rowe)

Work Overview

- Team to review the materials and send questions to Ashley about her findings, especially the projections.

Summary of decisions and action items

- Review the questions and help us choose a set of questions to work on.
- Follow up on the Berk12 data, including new transportation study

Set next meeting date and time

- Consider Tuesday?

MOTION TO ADJOURN, moved by Wilder, seconded by Evie Locke (?) approved unanimously.

Adjourned 7:10 PM