

Date:

To: Newfound Area School Board

On November 19th, 2014 a public meeting was held by the NASD area Select Boards. (One town declined. One member of that Board attended in an "ex officio" capacity). The subject matter addressed the significant student population decline of about 30% over the last decade. The "joint board" (JB) acknowledged the inevitability that the NASD School Board will face some difficult, but necessary, decisions in the near future.

As NH Department of Education, NH Employment statistics, NH Department of Resources and Economic Development and the US Census all indicate that the student decline is real and potentially long term given the statistics on the drop of people of child-bearing age in NH.

The JB had discussion about these statistics and recent NASD School Board meetings held to open dialogue with the parents and community to discuss and address this issue which included discussion on consolidation of facilities and School Board directive to the Superintendent to investigate the impacts and produce a report regarding a move to a K-6 and 7-12 education model.

As a result of the JB discussions, the group voted unanimously to support the NASD School Board with the hard decisions necessary to address issues of declining enrollment and quality education for Newfound Area students.

The group believes this is a unique opportunity to assist the NASD to broaden the dialogue to include all constituents beyond those who may have regular interaction with the Newfound Area School District.

The State of New Hampshire is faced with many economic concerns and those concerns impact all elements of a community. We have a responsibility to make changes that positively impact our children and the economic unease in our communities.

This letter commits our support to the School Board's leadership in bringing these matters to the forefront and broadening the community dialogue to encompass as many citizens as possible to assist in effecting improvement in the education process and educational success of our students.

Sincerely

The Select Boards of:

Alexandria; Bridgewater; Bristol; Danbury; Groton; Hebron;