

## Meeting Minutes of the Charlemont Selectboard

March 3, 2025, 6:30 PM

Hawley Town Office 8 Pudding Hollow Road

Hawley MA

Present: Valentine Reid, Kim Blakeslee, Sheryl Stanton, Martha Thurber, Ken Bertch, Bob Maclean, Will Cosby, Husain Hamdan, Tinky Weisblat and Sarah Reynolds as well as some Hawley residents

The Meeting was an update from the school committee on the Sustainability Study work. The update discussed the five models the study has produced as ways to move forward.

The Models are:

- 1) No change
- 2) Districts merge
- 3) Move 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- 4) Consolidate- requires some repairs to Buckland Shelburne Elementary
- 5) Single campus – this option requires building facilities investments

The financial impact of each model was discussed. The models with the greater financial impact are the schools combining or the single campus. Doing nothing would have base efficiency suggestions, merging districts reduces Hawlemont cost but increases district cost, moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade has some savings as well.

In addition to financial impacts there would also be opportunities for some more program offerings. It is also important to remember that there would be no “fast “changes there must be votes at town meetings and then depending on the model chosen there would be a timeframe to implement.

Right now, the work will be to flesh out a plan voting would be in 2026 at earliest.

It was also mentioned that the towns could pursue an often-mentioned lawsuit against Chapter 70 funding for rural schools. The individual boards will discuss at their meetings.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.