

Kingfield School Options Committee Meeting
December 8th, 2025 at 6:00pm
Webster Hall

Committee Members Present

- Kathy Houston, Chair
- Mathias Ringle
- Lilly Cheimis (via Zoom)

Committee Members Absent

- Kim Jordan

Others Present

- John Witherspoon, Alternate
 - Dorrie Dunham, Alternate
 - Martha Witham, Consultant
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Call to Order

The Kingfield School Options Committee held a Work Session on Monday, December 8, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Review of Mission and Operating Norms

The committee reviewed its mission and operating expectations, including the importance of bringing individual concerns to the full committee, avoiding assumptions, and refraining from speaking on behalf of the committee without authorization.

Minutes

Formal minutes from the previous meeting were not yet available and will be reviewed and considered for approval at a future meeting.

Public Participation Policy

The committee reviewed and agreed to follow the Town of Kingfield public participation policy and applicable state guidelines regarding public comment.

Organizational Options and Regional Coordination

The committee discussed potential collaboration with neighboring communities. Updates were shared regarding preliminary communication with Strong, Phillips, Stratton, and Carrabassett Valley.

Consultant Martha Witham advised that, based on enrollment and timelines, formation of an Alternative Organizational Structure (AOS) is not feasible and recommended that the committee

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proceed with development of a withdrawal plan. The committee discussed the need for an extension of state timelines.

Discussion was held regarding future negotiations, including potential scheduling challenges and negotiation procedures. The committee designated Martha Witham, Kathy Houston, and Mathias Ringle to serve as the negotiation team, subject to required approvals.

Withdrawal Planning and Timeline

The committee discussed statutory timelines and noted that submission of a withdrawal plan is anticipated in January and that an extension will be required. Consultant Witham reported that portions of the draft plan are underway and that additional information is needed to complete key components. The committee discussed anticipated grade configurations and enrollment considerations for a potential Kingfield school.

Communication and Next Steps

The committee agreed to postpone large regional meetings at this time. The committee further agreed that Lilly Cheimis would notify the MSAD 58 School Board that the committee is prepared to proceed with withdrawal planning and negotiations.

Next Meeting

The next Work Session is scheduled for January 6, 2026.
Muffy, consultant, will provide draft materials and questions for committee review.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Lilly Cheimis