

KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY STUDY COMMITTEE

The charge of this committee is to meet with representatives of the Kimball Union Academy (KUA) administration to maintain an ongoing review of the relationship between the Academy and the Town, and to report its findings at annual town meeting. This year's committee held three meetings between November 2017 and January 2018.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS: This is the first year that your committee has met without the need to discuss the optional tax exemption allowed under RSA 72:23. As advertised in 2017, the optional exemption will not be up for voter consideration at the 2018 annual meeting. Kimball Union will receive the statutory \$150,000 exemption on Kitchen Dining Hall and Dormitory property and will be taxed on the value of this class of property that exceeds \$150,000. Going forward, all admission and financial aid decisions will be between the private academy and the applicant's family. The Plainfield Grant, so called, will no longer exist.

It was not at all clear to the committee how, if at all, SB 8 otherwise known as the "Croydon bill" impacts the Plainfield/KUA relationship. Plainfield currently has an AREA agreement with Lebanon that provides secondary education for all Plainfield students. SB 8 faces a variety of legal challenges that will likely take several years to resolve.

This year our committee focused its efforts on building connections between the Plainfield School staff and Kimball Union staff that will encourage mutually beneficial interactions between the two institutions.

- KUA students enrolled in the Academy's signature programs perform community service work and may be available to support certain projects that would be of benefit to PES.
- Exposure to KUA's academic, artistic, athletic, and social programs may provide enrichment for certain PES students.
- Early development of relationships with Plainfield students might lead to future attendance at the private high school in the future.

This is not a new concept. The goal of this year's work was to establish a system within each organization that, once in place, would guarantee regular improved communication going forward, not just sporadic communication as circumstances dictate.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP:

1. The future location of the United States post office issue continues to be of interest to Meriden Village residents. The KUA Administration has expressed its interest in moving the post office off Main Street with the objective of improving pedestrian safety, and is interested in exploring alternatives for a Post Office in Meriden.
2. Kimball Union has now expanded the new sidewalk lights that were placed at the bottom of Main Street to all sidewalks and most walkways around the campus. The result is a much brighter walking environment for pedestrians and greater safety for pedestrians and motorists alike.
3. KUA is also continuing to participate in discussing with our Regional Planning Commission and the NH DOT concerning possible safety issues relating to crossing Route 120. KUA Committee member John Yacavone also serves as the town's representative to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC).
4. As of this writing, thirty four Plainfield students are attending Kimball Union. Nine of these are students of Kimball Union faculty, four live on campus and five live in private homes off campus. Of these seven will likely graduate in May. At this early date, five PES 8th graders have shown interest in attending Kimball Union. Two of them have applied.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Beaupre, Robert Blake-KUA, Andrea Bueno Keen, Christian Forman-PES Schoolboard, Steve Halleran-Town Administrator, Rob Hewett, John Yacavone,

Plainfield KUA Study Committee 2017/18