

Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee
Approved Minutes - October 1, 2013 at 7:00 pm
Leland and Gray Library

Present: Emily, Neil (Bucky) Cory, Bruce, LeeAnne Joe, and Heather.

Also: Steven John, Frank Rucker, Nancy Dyke, Jerry Dyke, John Everitt

Called to order by Emily at 7:06

1. No changes to the agenda.

2. Public Comment: Nancy Dyke, Jerry Dyke

Nancy thanked VREDSC for efforts at meetings, especially at Windham. Jerry and I attended all the informational meetings and Jerry made a chart of the issues that continued to come up. Jerry gave the committee his chart.

3. Minutes: Neil moved, second by Joe to approve the Minutes for Aug. 29, 2013 and Sept. 17, 2013.

4. Discuss and vote on revisions to the proposed Articles:

The Committee considered revisions to the proposed Articles of Agreement. Approved by unanimous consent the additional language to the third paragraph on page 1 explaining the timeline of decisions leading to the approval of this version.

Discussed the date for a new vote replacing the canceled Oct. 8 vote.

November is too soon for a renewed information campaign and warnings for the vote.

February or Town Meeting would mix the public consideration of the WCED creation with FY15 Budget votes in each town and for L&G.

A June 3, 2014 vote was discussed regarding how it affected the transition timeline of authority from the 5 or 6 boards to the WCED Board. Committee agreed unanimously to set June 3, 2014 for the new vote on the proposed Articles of Agreement to form a WCED.

The Committee agreed to make no further changes in the Articles except for the additional information, e.g., another year of data in the chart for Article 1.

Frank raised concerns about the language in Article 16, specifically, "Closing a school means that the WCED Board will no longer use the facility in direct education of children." The Committee discussed deleting this sentence, but made no decision.

The Committee added Brookline School to the last paragraph in Article 16.

John proposed switching the order of the paragraphs of Article 16 to clarify the RED Committee's intent if a new school were built for Jamaica and Townshend.

John will provide proposed language for Article 16 for the Committee's consideration at the next meeting.

5. Public Outreach Planning:

Steven clarified that a mailing to all constituents in the five towns would be approximately \$2000. This and other expenses by the Committee to inform the public could be reimbursed by the state if incurred prior to the SBE final approval. The Committee intends to submit the revised Articles of Agreement to the SBE in November or possibly December.

Bruce suggested adding a slide to informational Powerpoint that explains what a new school for the students in Jamaica and Townshend would mean for the prospects of sustaining and expand opportunities for student learning.

For future public information the Committee wants to provide projections of costs for three scenarios: (Project benefits to students and costs savings annually for three to five years.)

- 1) Continuing the five El. schools and L&G without a WCED.
- 2) Form a WCED with present schools maintained with present staffing student-teacher ratios. 2b) Look for equity for all students to the same as NewBrook.
- 3) Form a WCED and build a new school for Jamaica and Townshend staffed parallel to NewBrook with added foreign language.

Emily asked the members to send John and the committee their responses and answers to the new questions that were raised at the four informational meetings.

Next Meeting will be Wed., Nov. 6, 2013 at L&G Library @7 p.m.

6. LeeAnne moved to adjourn and Joe seconded.

Adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully submitted,
Steven John, Superintendent