

Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee

November 29, 2012

Library @ Leland & Gray

7:00p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

R.E.D. Committee:

Emily Long, Drew Hazelton, Bruce Parlman, Cory Stark, Neil "Bucky" Pelsue, Ken McFadden, LeeAnne Parker, Joe Winrich, April Chase. (Windham not represented.)

Administrators:

Steven John, Superintendent; Frank Rucker, CFO; John Everitt – VSBA Consultant. Samantha Bovat- WCSU- Minute taker.

Board Members:

Jamaica –

Windham –

L&G – Patti Dickson

Newfane - Kim Friedman

Members of the Public:

Jerry Dyke and Nancy Dyke- Windham

7:00 Emily Long called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Review Agenda :

John E- Brought flier with talking points- suggested that group should look at flier and add to it.

2. Comments from the Public:

Nancy Dyke- Please do not allow lack of vision by some to deter process.

3. Review and approve minutes from 10-3-12 Meeting:

Bucky makes a motion to approve and Ken seconds.

All in favor motion passes.

No changes- approved as is.

Bruce question on Pg 4 of minutes - Did Jamaica make any decisions?

4. Review overview of new school finances:

John E-Does financing of school with Jamaica and Townshend still make sense? John took all budgets and created an overview. (Dated 11/24/12) Took amount NB spending and multiplied # students that J&T have.... In this summary- Windham would not be affected at all. These are operating estimates only. Difference in bond and

capital investments would still be substantial (approx. \$100k for NewBrook). (Note: NewBrooks' cost per student already includes capital improvements.)

Drew- Perhaps \$300K is a more realistic number than \$422....

Bucky- This document gives us a good sense, but afraid of implications if this doc is shared with public.

Ken- What would be maximum capacity for this hypothetical school?

Drew- A new school may be just the thing to turn around our declining enrollment.

Frank- School would occupy numbers based on today, but room for 90 more students.

LeeAnne- Again economy of scale would be present. Real savings can be had by looking at more efficient heating systems, for example.

Kim F- Would there be a tax advantage for J&T to share a bond between the four elementaries regardless of how the governance works? Perhaps as a Unified district?

Frank- It really depends on how many schools remain functional and is also a question of who is the employer which would determine cost savings. Separate entities are not nearly as seamless, regardless of whether joint board or RED. Comes down to legal entity construct. Because biggest costs are employment....

Bucky- MUU and RED- Would either still have lump sum and tax incentive available?

JE- Single Unit \$400/student at outset of venture (4 years) or spread over 4 years . Looks like Tax incentive seems to be the best.

5. Review "Citizen Information" DRAFT and determine "pros" and "cons" to list:

Bruce- Since the last RED meeting, has Jamaica made any decisions and how are the rest of the boards feeling?

Drew- Jamaica Board did discuss with full board- we want to be able to discuss with the public before sending articles to the state.

Emily- We have been appointed as a committee, we have the authority to move forward without the public input. Unless you have all answers, presenting to the public is much harder.

LeeAnne- Articles are not something for the public. Can the articles come back changed?

John- Yes they can.

Drew- We want to bring the draft articles to the public and ask the question- "Can you support this?" Not necessarily a vote or pick apart the articles...but looking to get a sense from townspeople.

Bucky- We were appointed to committee by school board. So before we go to the towns-we need to go back to the school boards to be sure they still support this.

LeeAnne would also like to bring articles to board to be sure that they are ok with them before sending along.

April- Townshend board is still pretty open. Would like to share process and ideas with townspeople. But overall are supportive of the concept.

Kim- 1. Go back to boards with articles.

2. Hold joint meeting or in individual towns.

3. Board Votes formally whether or not to send articles.

4. Come back together to decide whether or not to send up articles as a committee.

Drew - Board does support that we do want to put it to a vote. Suggests that each board takes a binding vote after town information is shared, so that the representatives that vote to send up articles are truly representing constituents.

Nancy- fine line between having all the answers and having a role in the process.

Cory- Who would be presenting? Having a mix of presenters from various towns.

John - will look into boundaries for presentations by board members to townspeople.

Discussion about advocating vs presenting.

Steven hands out document from Chair of the Windham Board in response to Steven's "Forming a K-12 Regional Education District:....." Used as a springboard for further discussion.

Discussion ensued about Two Vote...

Reviewed changes to following articles

Article 12 -Two vote or proportional voting like L&G does? Any member of the board can request a two vote....

Article 17- Closing of school....goes back to towns

Article 18- Advisory language revisions... John will rewrite to make sure of the "representative" language. Each school would have an advisory committee.

LeeAnne -Is staff included? SJ- caution about committees and how that could lead to authority challenges. (staff can be considered community)

Stipulate that operate under Open Meeting laws...John re-words

Bruce

Pg 3- Windham is not part of the L&G board because L&G board does not exist.

Pg 5- Put a star next to Windham to note that they really don't have a vote unless it pertains to L&G

Article 17- In the event a new school is built for Jamaica & Townshend.....

Pg 9 -Attachment A- Opportunity- potential for larger group of students to be able to pull in grants- increased proportion. (more options)...

Pg 10- 1st priority....remove Windham from school building

Pg 6- Article 14 Including Brookline-Newfane

Pg 9- Tax savings....school serving two towns not three

John- Please review Citizen information suggestions.

7. Next steps

Bucky makes a motion to send draft AOA to L&G, Brookline- Newfane Joint school Board, Jamaica Townshend and Windham for review and comment. Ken seconds.

Discussion- is there any reason we should not send all this info to entire SU? At some point should, but feeling is that we should wait until all boards have discussed. Kim suggest that there be a deadline.

Amended - Bucky makes a motion to send draft articles AOA to L&G, Brookline- Newfane Joint school Board, Jamaica Townshend and Windham for review and comment by next RED Committee meeting on January 16, 2013.

Joe W. seconds- All in favor motion passes.

Drew makes a motion to adjourn - Joe W seconds- All in favor to adjourn at 9:25.

