

Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee

February 27, 2013

Leland & Gray Library

7:00 - 9:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES (as ammended)

R.E.D. Committee:

Emily Long, Bruce Parliman, Cory Stark, Neil “Bucky” Pelsue, Ken McFadden, LeeAnne Parker, Joe Winrich, April Chase. (Windham not represented.) Lo

Administrators:

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

Board Members:

Jamaica – none

Windham – none

L&G – none

Newfane - Kim Friedman

Members of the Public:

Jerry Dyke and Nancy Dyke- Windham

(Kevin Burke- L&G technical assistance support)

Emily called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Agenda

Review Agenda - no changes

Comments from the public- Jerry Dyke- has enjoyed public presentations so far Jamaica, Townshend and NewBrook.

Review and Approve Minutes - January 16, 2013 (attached) Bucky made a motion, Ken seconded, no changes, motion passes.

**Review input from local boards-
NewBrook**

LeeAnne - At the meeting, there were a number of topics, not just RED. Interpretation was that there is some skepticism. Individuals were a little thrown off by format and Articles that were presented. Feeling that it was worthwhile to make public aware. Not a sense of excitement or negativity..... (7 people attended)

Somewhere in the Articles need to clarify what will be done with empty school buildings. Ken- There is a cost to maintaining these buildings. Revision to articles to reflect-*“Consideration of the cost of maintaining vacant buildings must be taken when developing the WCED budget.”*

Bucky- When we do another informational meeting should include a second column of down sides.

LeeAnne- It is a challenge to be impartial when presenting.

Townshend

April- Not a grand turnout- 6 people. April's approach was to inquire from public what *they* wanted to know.

Questions and topics that surfaced:

- Voting representation?
- School building itself- what would happen if not used for education?
- Transportation concerns- distance and time on the bus.
- Position of the Windham board and how that will work having them as an advisory?
- What are costs and needs of buildings if vacant as well as maintenance costs for NewBrook.
- Idea that was brought up ... We are looking at it all wrong- should be building a new high school and use L&G as the elementary school.

John E- In regards to Windham's role. The State Board may say that they do not have a seat and can only be advisory. We do not have that authority- need to leave it up to the state.

Emily- Clarifies that if Windham votes that they don't want to join and the rest of towns do, the majority can disband L&G Union and we can still move forward. Windham will then have to either be a choice town for high school or designate L&G as their high school.

In a MUUD- Windham has to vote. Regardless of Windham's vote- all the **necessary districts** (Brookline, Newfane, Jamaica and Townshend) have to vote yes. If Windham votes no, by law, they have no seat on the RED board.

Windham wants to have a seat still for L&G. As articles stand- have a seat on the board if vote is yes.

In Article 1 - can say "non- voting member" for matters relating to grades 7-12.

Bucky- By doing that, we are taking away their input into 7-12.

John- that is right because they would be either choice or designated. This gives Windham the option to join or not.

LeeAnne- if Windham votes yes- are there any differences in the functioning of the governance body? John- No.

Steven-could this group reconstitute itself to exclude Windham?

John- not until they have voted.

Bucky- Comments that these are "Sensitive and sensible articles."

Nancy Dyke- Windham needs to take responsibility for the decisions they have made to back out of the RED -losing a vote for grade 7-12. That is the result.

(Article1)- "as a voting member of the..." - after advisable district and make it part of 2nd paragraph. The Windham school district will be included...

Emily - changes in Article 1 were approved by consensus.

Update on Legislative action (John, Emily, Steven)

Discussion ensued about Jamaica's commitment to the RED at this time.

Emily- Can the other three towns move forward nif Jamaica should also pull out?

John- Yes, but they would be in the same boat as Windham- could take an advisory role....

Nancy- Please consider how an objective presentations could be done.

John- The committee could and should do the presentations- not necessarily the boards.

Emily- That could be the model we use.

Bucky- What would be turn around once we submit articles.

John- Six weeks once legislations makes decision.

Review Articles:

#10 - appointed vs elected.

Term limits- Steven- spoke with VSBA & VSA and "term limits" is a much bigger issue and while we may want to make a point- this could cause a delay in the whole process. Suggests that we strike it from these Articles and revisit as a waiver down the road. (Omitting term limits...after ten years of service.)

#11- set a time- Can have a special town meeting or australian vote (suggest that we try June for vote and by Australian Ballot)

Discussion about how to get the most voters out and conversation ensued about the opportunity of having all towns in one hall. Have RED Committee available to answer questions- and have all town clerks available to take paper ballots or vote on the floor.

Wednesday June 5th is the date set for the vote.

#12 Change wording....

Board shall become operative July 8th.

Page 11 of 15- 2nd paragraph- John will craft last sentence to ensure monies for maintenance of vacant schools.

Page 15- remove wording about capital improvements in 1st paragraph.

Bucky makes a motion to submit the AoA's as ammended to the VT State board of Education forth with.LeeAnne seconded - all in favor - motion passes.

Next steps-

- Review Vision Questions- **the ones circled**
- Strategy and Planning
- Kim offers to help facilitate the outreach plan- will come with an outline
- Group discussion about any other initiatives that may be taking place

9:20 Adjourn- Joe moves to adjourn, LeeAnne seconds.

Next Meeting

March 6th at 7pm - L&G