

Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee

June 6, 2012

Leland & Gray Library

7:00 - 9:00 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

Bruce Parlman, Drew Hazelton – Jamaica; Antje Ruppert - Windham; Joe Winrich, Townshend; Lee Anne Parker – Brookline; Emily Long, Bucky Pelsue, Newfane, John Doty-Principal, Windham. John Everitt – subcontractor to VSBA; Frank Rucker, CFO WCSU, Samantha Bovat WCSU- Minute Taker. Members of the public, Nancy and Jerry Dyke. Alecia O'Donnell, Carolyn Partridge, Ken McFadden

Emily called meeting to order at 7:03pm

Agenda

1. Review Agenda
2. Comments from the public
 - No comments
3. Review and Approve May 2, 2012 Minutes with changes-
 - Bucky moves to approve, LeeAnne 2nds
Please change initials- 2 BP's and NB's
Frank not listed as attending-add his name
Strike comment under #2 Drew
Strike () 8
4. Draft Roadmap and Timeline for RED Study Committee (John Everitt)
 - Bucky- Delay new school discussion until January? Disagrees with this approach.
 - This committee would not talk about new school. (RED work and new school are two different charges)RED board would charge a committee to discuss new school.
 - Joe- both the formation of RED and new school seem to be in the draft Articles of Agreement already (#1)
 - Bucky- If new school is not acceptable to towns...what are advantages of RED? Wants to understand the advantages for the kids and not just for the boards.
 - Emily- We have had discussions about benefits to students and out of that the discussion of a new school was introduced and led to investigating cost savings, etc. This committee did not start with a new school in mind.
 - Ken- The terms "closing" in the article language was a sticking point when Brookline and Newfane merged

5. RED Study Committee Report to State Board of Education (John Everitt)

-Question of closing schools- would have to be unanimous by each town.

-How do we make sure equity of assets from all towns?- We don't. The nature of the new initiative is what it is. No provision for adjustments in tax rates, etc. This committee *could* decide to equalize the transfer and appropriate resources as you wish.

John E- Over the long term everything will wash out.

-Frank- need to get a legal answer about sale of school assets (Do you bring the school buildings in to start even though you know they are not going to use them? or Do you bring them in and have the RED dispose?)

-There was discussion of what the RED Board make up would look like. It will be important that less than the majority of the board turn over in any one year.

-Auditors- election would be job of the board and not necessary in these articles.

-Shouldn't it be a town decision of whether or not to sell the school to the RED? T.16 s.723- need to get more legal opinion to clarify transfer of assets (*See Frank's charge above*).

Review motion to see if we said we would never close a school.

COST benefits included in articles.

-Question was raised on whether this groups should decide now or in July whether they intend to submit these AOA's to the State in August. Discussion ensued about inviting all boards to weigh in.

-Bruce- can we strengthen this document by moving up the "creation of a new school" in the article 12 (copy text into article 1)?

-When addressing the public about this RED (The RED and new school go hand in hand and that is what the townspeople are voting on) When we support the articles....

-Board question- Because the Principals are now answering to one board that includes all the towns in the RED, who would the Principal interact with as a conduit to the board to address needs/questions? John E- suggests that the Superintendent would be that person.

-The WCSU Board structure will need to be changed after formation of RED (What would representation look like? (John- This will be a Request of state board from SU not this committee.)

-Can we vote to support articles tonight and decide to move forward and still make changes at the next meeting with more input from other boards? - YES

-Bucky made a motion: I move we take a consensus vote for moving forward with the Articles of Agreement for the formation of a RED and delay final vote until after we have input at meeting with representatives from town school boards and L&G board.
Antje- seconded.

Discussion:

All in favor motion passes.

Note: When warn July 25th meeting, be sure the warning includes all towns involved.

~~6. Draft Warning to present to voters (John Everitt)- Put off until a later date~~

~~7. Current status of governance consolidation incentives (John Everitt)~~

~~8. Brainstorm ideas about community engagement~~

9. Plan next Agenda and July meeting (date and agenda)

John will send us 5 questions ahead of time to see if some would like to share their story.

Presentation will be determined by Emily, Frank and Steven and John. (email ideas to them please)

10. Adjourn- Joe W. Made motion to adjourn. Drew seconded. All in favor

Next Meetings

July 4 (reschedule) **July 25th**

August 1- **August 7th**