

Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee

May 2, 2012

Leland & Gray Library

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Bruce Parlman, Drew Hazelton – Jamaica; Antje Ruppert - Windham; Joe Winrich, April Chase– Townshend; Lee Anne Parker – Brookline; Corey Stark, Emily Long, John Doty-Principal, Windham. John Everitt – subcontractor to VSBA; Steven John Superintendent; Samantha Bovat WCSU- Minute Taker. Members of the public, Nancy and Jerry Dyke.

Emily called meeting to order at 7:05pm

1. **Review Agenda** - John Everitt has a revised Road Map Document - not the same one that was emailed earlier. Will share with group.

Drew requested discussion about Added item under articles (#8)

2. **Comments from the public**- None

3. **Review and Approve Minutes** - April 4, 2012

LeeAnne- Motion to Approve, seconded by April, all in favor motion passes

4. **Legislative update** (John Everitt)- 753-still working on it, but potential for support for studies and flexibility. Not a whole lot new. Expecting incentives to come through and ability for more studies to be supported. (Affects those who haven't started the process yet- not necessarily our RED committee.)

- Senate still looking at a study of fewer SU's (48 down from 62)

5. **Estimated comparison of programming and staffing between existing school (Jamaica, Windham, and Townshend) and consolidated new school (Steven John)**

- Start with FTE- Review Frank's document about Costs- assumptions only at this point.
- #4 Note- NB 144 students....17.14 students per classroom teacher, etc. (11 &12 #s from the state include special educators, paras, nurses, etc.)
- Instead of using 8.4 in the assumption, Steven suggested one FT teacher for World Learning, + .6 - rounding up to 10 positions at FT instead of 8.4 (159 students translates into 15.9 teachers)
- Expanded learning opportunities is the impetus for these assumptions (ex: second language or something of the sort). *Clarification*- this additional staffing is really focused on the consolidated school model.
- These assumptions are based on current staffing model/benefits experienced at NewBrook
- FTE total of 27.92 is a result of low utilization of current staff #s which is a result of small schools. (37.55)
- Loss of teachers/jobs is going to be a consideration for the small towns.
- Again reminded of the retirement prospects of this SU (natural attrition)
- Transportation- Windham would join SU in the transportation instead of hiring a bus driver and owning a bus (1/2 to 0). Not a significant reduction, but all going to one central location, etc. (Windham bus currently drives through Townshend and Jamaica) looking at redundant routes.

- Capital expenses and debt Service- bond life is coming to an end for many towns...10 years with a new building will be less than maintaining and doing capital planning for schools.
- Avg total cost per student- Total cost doesn't reflect revenue coming back
- Cost net per equalized student- revenue (not anticipating loss of revenue with a RED because of the incentives they will be rolling out.) These #s do not include a hypothetical component. \$12,750 is based on what we know for schools as of January 2012)
- One way to increase revenue would be to attract tuition students. This would encourage (potentially)- these same students moving up to L&G. (159 kids is 174 total kids less the % for Pre-school)
- Small schools grant?- Maintained initially, but looks like they will be phasing it out throughout the state. (Stays in the RED as a combined total- perhaps 4 years)
- Predictions for revenues outside of the Small Schools Grant?- No- too variable to guess at this point.
- LP these \$ numbers are significant
- 12% savings- difference in NewBrook starting up
- Cost per student at NB now is \$11,205 (a new school could achieve the same efficiency and result.)
- Creating RED would free up administrators' time to plan ahead and look at big picture when have a single board as opposed to individuals.

6. **Current status of governance consolidation incentives?** (John Everitt)- Until the bill gets passed this is a mute point.

7. **Draft Roadmap and Timeline for RED Study Committee (John Everitt) (See draft in folder)**

- When we talk about Articles - will be talking about Articles of Agreement for state board approval. We will use the term "Warning" when talking about what to bring to public vote.
- If you want to create a new school, you could decide that outside of the RED. (caution in creating a Plan B mentality of boards and confusion for Voters)
- Timeline based on a November vote. If vote date changes - timeline would change.
- Keep in mind the challenges of engaging communities in the summer- perhaps attack it in the fall.
- Potential for RED outreach getting lost in such a big election year. Perhaps use this big push to provide information to the many voters. Also consider that masses are out already. Could be used as a good indicator.
- August 12th Finalizing articles....if push it back further than that
- When public votes on warning- the board is formed.
- SJ- Budgets won't change just because we create a RED...Also date of board change is to be set by the RED board. There will be a transition time.
- DH-Without new school he would not support the RED
- BP- Need to add to agenda a look at advantages and disadvantages of creating a school independent of RED formation
- There will not be the cost savings without a new school (reduction from 3-1 buildings), so don't see advantage of RED without it.
- Cost savings and **educational opportunities** will not exist without a

RED.(including use of L&G, Common Core K-12....)

## **Who gives the committee its charge for creating a new school?- The three boards of Townshend, Jamaica and Windham**

8. Draft **RED Articles** (John Everitt)- Prescribed by DOE for presentation to State Board of Education. Warning to voters prescribed in state law.

### Discussion

- What would the advantage be for the Newfane/Brookline towns to form a RED if the school stays the same?"
- Capital Plans- reserves and credits for towns (make sure language is included in Article 7?)
- Board Member Terms- 3 years (be sure we have longer terms than one year)
- Discussion about timeline for operation of Board.....(shadow board of 18 months?)
- Multi-year budget planning benefits? - Cuts down on the planning and time. Is an option with a RED.
- NewBrook should be credited for bringing in a building asset as opposed to the towns that are not doing so.

### **9. Plan next Agenda and July meeting date**

- -LP suggested that since time is short- John will get a copy of the Warnings to review for next meeting.
- Revised road map? Please be sure to be more specific on dates ex: In March of 2013 will be budgeting for FY14
- Legislative Review
- Articles of Agreement revisions
- Will NewBrook Board talk about benefits of belonging to a RED?
- Can we bring back the discussion on why we are here in the first place?
- June 6th -Discuss July meeting and inviting everyone here from boards to take a temperature.

9:08 April made a motion to adjourn- Joe seconded, all in favor- motion passes.

### Next Meetings

- June 6
- July 4 (reschedule)
- August 1