

Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee

Meeting Date: Nov. 2, 2011
Place: Leland & Gray HS

Draft

Attending: Committee members Bruce Parlman; Drew Hazelton; Lee Anne Parker; David Dezendorf; Joe Winrich; Antje Ruppert; Cory Stark; Neil "Bucky" Pelsue; Emily Long. John Everitt - Subcontractor to VSBA. Steven John -Superintendent. Absent: Pam Meihak.

Members of community: Somara Zwick, Beth McDonald, John Doty, Nancy and Jerry Dyke.

7:07 Meeting called to order by Emily Long.

Motion and second to approve minutes of 10/5 made by David Dezendorf and Bucky Pelsue. Change recommended by Emily to correct the attendance list to reflect that there are no alternates on this committee. All voted in favor of the changes. It was noted that voting members are listed on the WCSU web site under the RED Committee link. It was decided that the agenda for our meetings as well as the minutes be posted on the web site. John Everitt will follow up with Samantha.

Questions were developed for the 8 pm SKYPE conversation with Chittenden East committee member Robert Letovsky:

1. Request a review of the CESU's process and its current status.
2. How was information about the RED disseminated to the community?
3. What improvements were seen for the students in both the Elementary and Middle/High School?
4. How did staff interpret potential changes?
5. Were any economies of scale anticipated?
6. How many times do they plan to revote? (The CESU RED vote was defeated)
7. What was his conclusion as to why the RED vote failed?
8. What did he see as a RED alternative to the technical school?
9. How did they interpret the RED changes would impact Central office operations? Tradeoffs?
10. Does he see a RED as more sustainable than the current organization? Does it improve public engagement?
11. What were the Towns reactions to losing their full school boards? Was there exit polling at the vote?
12. How many meetings were held with the public? did they go to every town?

7:30 General Board discussion: Should we move forward with a RED? Drew H. reported the Jamaica school board feels strongly the need clarity around closing of the schools (article 16). Several committee members felt there is a need to add articles relating to school choice, available space issues, the moving students and teachers. Who makes these decisions? teachers, students, the RED board?

8:00: SKYPE conversation with Robert Letovsky. No notes were taken within this period. Session ended at 8:47.

8:47: General discussion. The next meeting should focus on what our school children and their parents (guardians) currently have, and what is lacking. More study is needed regarding financial and enrollment options. More review is needed of the CESU, Addison Northwest and Fletcher/Fairfax Articles. Steven John will be meeting with the principals of the RED Committee schools this month to talk about the

RED. He will bring a summary of that discussion to our next meeting. He encourages the committee to speak to their neighbors about what they like and what would they like to have in the future. John Everitt encouraged those on the committee to send him questions about any of the RED Board Articles from other towns so he can consolidate them and present them at our next meeting.

Next meeting will be December 14th. Chair Emily Long will be absent, Joe Winrich will chair the meeting.

The motion to adjourn was made by Bucky, Joe Winrich seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Anne Parker