

Study Committee Regarding the Dissolution of Regional School District #11
Minutes of Meeting
April 9, 2009
Hampton Community Center
Hampton, CT.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Committee

Present: Clark Stearns, Melanie Johnston, Gale Lockland, Ann Burnham, Richard Weingart, Sally Ireland, Marion Taylor, and Ron Harris.

Absent: Howard Rifkin, Doug Gillette, and Catherine Wade.

3. Public Participation:

Bill Ireland suggested that the *Comparative Special Ed Costs RD11 Chaplin, Hampton & Scotland* report should identify Regional District #11, not PHHS.

4. Written Communications to the Committee:

Gale Lockland received from Superintendent Henrici documentation requested at the last meeting, specifically *Weighted Grade Policy, Weighted Grade Points, Facility Current Needs and Longer Term Maintenance Plan*. (attached)

E-mail Communications to the Committee: Melanie Johnston read an email from John Smith (attached).

5. Additions to Agenda: none.

7. Secretary's Report: Review of Minutes 03-26-09

Motion: Marion Taylor, seconded by Sally Ireland, to approve the Minutes of 03-26-09. Motion carried unanimously, Gale Lockland abstaining.

8. Treasurer's Report:

Dick Weingart reported that the committee has spent \$621.50 and owes \$79.56 for copying materials, \$127.50 for recording services, and \$600 for legal services, for a total of \$1,428.56 committed funds to date.

Motion: Gale Lockland, seconded by Melanie Johnston, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Financial Issues: Assets/Liabilities/Obligations: none.

B. Report on Transportation Cost Estimates

Dick Weingart reported that the transportation options for each town developed by the subcommittee, as well as current enrollment figures, have been sent to bus contractor First Student for transportation cost estimates.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Status Full Student Enumeration from Superintendents: in progress.

B. Continued Discussion of Special Education

Members received from Gale Lockland copies of *Comparative Special Ed Costs RD11 Chaplin, Hampton & Scotland*, and *Comparative Special Education Costs for Area Towns/Districts: '05-'06, '06-'07 & '07-'08*.

C. Appraisal Information

By general consent it was agreed that both the previous appraisal included in the 2006 withdrawal study and Chaplin's current revaluation should be included in the final report.

D. SAT Score Comparisons '08

Marion Taylor distributed copies of *2008 SAT Scores*. Melanie will add to the previous report.

E. CMT Scores

Ann Burnham distributed copies of *CMT Data by District/School Report Grade 8, 2008*.

F. Ad Hoc Committee Update

Chairman Stearns reported that the committee has received 5 replies so far.

G. Rights and Benefits of Teachers in the Event of Dissolution: Statute 10-156b

i. Information from Consultation with Labor Attorneys

Ron Harris reported that 3 labor attorneys have responded with different conclusions. Attorney Harris will continue to seek clarification on the statute from the State Department of Education. It was agreed that additional information from the district is also needed, specifically the certification of current staff and the rights and benefits conferred by the contract between the RD #11 Board of Education and the RD #11 Teachers' Union. Chairman Stearns will meet with Superintendent Henrici for assistance in determining the towns' liabilities as per contracted benefits of current and retired staff.

11. New Business

i. Request for Committee Members to Tour Area Schools

This will be included on the agenda of the next meeting as the Ad Hoc Committee should receive more responses from area schools.

ii. Assignment of Groups to Work on Data & Conclusions

Appointments to subcommittees were approved; Marion Taylor volunteered to serve on the Curriculum/Extra Curricula subcommittee and Dick Weingart declined his appointment to the Costs Impact on Per Pupil Expenses subcommittee. Subcommittees will begin to work on drafts of final report for approval by full committee.

iii. Timetable for Orderly Withdrawal

It was agreed that one year is too short a time for an orderly process; the possibility of 2 years was discussed along with the possibility of temporary and interim cooperative agreements between towns. The subject will be included on the next meeting agenda.

12. Next Meeting Date:

The following schedule was developed:

- April 23 at Scotland Community Center
- May 14 at Chaplin Senior Center
- May 20 at PHHS
- May 28 at PHHS
- June 11 at PHHS

Dates for additional special meetings will be on next meeting's agenda.

13. Public Participation:

Bill Ireland suggested that the committee obtain written clarification from the State Department of Education on CGS 10-156b. He also cautioned the committee on establishing too short a timetable for withdrawal and developing detailed plans for implementing withdrawal.

Dan Savino concurred that 2 years is not a realistic timetable for withdrawal.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Melanie Johnston, seconded by Sally Ireland, to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully prepared,

Dayna McDermott Arriola, Recording Clerk