

Richmond Adhoc Committee on Education

Wednesday September 6, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Richmond Town Library

Minutes

1. Review and approval of the agenda. - Approved
2. Review and approval of August 8, 2017 Minutes - Approved
3. Public Comments
4. Update from Doug – MRSD budget and LRP meetings – State meetings
 - a. HB1303 deals with withdrawal of towns from a SD. Attempts to make WD process smore equitable and more streamlined. Monetary concerns are reduced if not eliminated – making the process less political. Currenty there is no such thing as unilateral WD – a town who is a member of a cooperative school district must receive an affirmative vote from the town's voters to form a withdrawal committee, and the voters of all member towns must approval the withdrawal once a plan has been finalized and approved by the NHDOE. HB 1303 bill will allow a town to withdrawal unilaterally whether the district votes to allow them or not. If town enrollment is less than 20% total enrollment of the district the town can vote to unilaterally withdrawal. If between 20-40% (Troy/Fitz), town needs to obtain 60% of town voters. If over 40% (Swanzey) then town needs simple of town vote and simple majority of district vote. The bill is currently being discussed in committee – which Doug has been attending. Doug feels that there is more than 50% chance of passing but the vote is at least a year away. It could be introduced in June or July next year. Currently the withdrawal process is a 2 year process and subject to district vote.
 - b. The MRSD Long Range Planning CommitteeLRP has been dissolved as voted by the school board at meeting on 9/5. The MRSD budget committee will meet in September. Doug is on a subcommittee to work on default budget.
 - c. Budget Committee Update – Negotiating committees are underway. A professional negotiator has been hired by the school board to negotiate all 3 contracts. Four members of school board are involved in negotiations to

handle each of the 3 contracts. October enrollment numbers will be coming soon.

- d. Special Education students – As a result of a request for information regarding the number of Richmond special education students, Lisa Steadman reported an enrollment of 130 Richmond students of whom 25 are on Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Six require special transportation. Two are out of district placements. Eleven require paraprofessionals
5. Peter will get back to Tim R, the SAU 29 Business Manger, with these numbers so he can project tuition costs as if Richmond were tuitioning to Keene this year.
 6. Doug is working on getting a copy of the MRSD NESDEC report.
 7. Winchester Report – Jed
 - a. NESDEC 2014 enrollment projections found a 10year high student enrollment in 2004 with 2500 students. The report projects a continuing decline in enerollment until 2020 when enrollment will reach 1500 and level off at slightly below 1500, perhaps 1450. There doesn't seem to be a breakdown of specific Richmond statistics.
 - b. Doug checked state web site for building requirements. No minimum size to build a school. Very little state aid for building now.
 - c. Jed would like to update select board and talk about a press release – study committee to investigate all options for Richmond students. Could send to the Rooster and Sentinel. Our committee thinks a press release is a good idea – it should be general in nature but specific enough to set the record straight.
 - d. Discussed forming questions to ask of Winchester officials to solicit data. The questions included:
 - i. How many Richmond students on free and reduced lunch.
 - ii. How many students in the Winchester SD? K-8
 - iii. Student/teacher ratio
 - iv. Can use state testing info to judge quality – NHDOE website.
 - v. Extracurricular options for kids –
 - vi. After school programming – cost – ACCESS
 - vii. Nature's Classroom
 - viii. Transportation costs – Jed will try to investigate
 - ix. Class sizes
 - x. Specials offered and numbers of minutes per week.
 - xi. What would parents want in an elementary school
 - xii. Special services available to students

- xiii. Paid breakfast and or lunch program
- xiv. State test scores
- xv. Winchester ave. cost per student = k-8 \$13,925 on state website
- xvi. Monadnock k-8 - \$16,200
- xvii. Ask Winchester what they would bill us
- xviii. How do Winchester students do at KHS?
- xix. What is Winchester's per pupil cost – for the town.
- xx. If join Winchester School district, apportionment costs, and implications -
 - Next meeting with Winchester is Tues. 9/26 at 3:45 p.m.

8. Update from Jed – Winchester meeting of 8/31/17

- a. Next Winchester meeting Tuesday 9/26 3:45 p.m. in Supt. Office

9. Follow-up with SAU 29 – Peter will follow-up.

10. Discussion regarding viable alternatives

- a. It seems to make sense to encourage the selectboard to consider putting the option to form a withdrawal committee on the March warrant.
- b. Forming a Richmond School district would provide the most flexibility per Senate Bill 8. Must also consider what to do about joining and SAU – form own SAU, join SAU 93 Monadnock, join SAU 29 Keene, join SAU 94 Winchester – all options.

11. Next meeting will be Monday October 2, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. at the Richmond library