

## **Richmond Adhoc Committee on Education**

### **Meeting Minutes Monday June 12, 2017 Richmond Town Library**

**In Attendance: Doug Bersaw, Jed Butterfield    Absent. Peter Mulhall**

**Guests: Neil Moriarity**

1. Review and approval of the agenda.
  - a. We will add "Public Comments" to the agenda when we have visitors.
2. Public Comments
  - a. Neil asked about the scope and mission of the adhoc committee. We made clear that we are advisory only – that the Selectboard will be making any decisions regarding the future education of Richmond students. We shared that we hope to have written report for the Selectboard listing options with pro's and con's by the end of the year. Neil noted that there was a petition about 15 years ago asking Richmond residents whether or not they wanted their own school in Richmond – it was defeated. We might try to gather more info on this detail. Neil also noted that Janelle Swanson, now living in Swanzey, is a business administrator in Keene, and she might be helpful in our process. Neil also noted that the process of withdrawing from an SAU is a two year process and involves the Selectboard and the elected school board representative.
3. The minutes of the May 31, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. Doug provided an update from the MRSD adhoc Long Range Planning committee meeting. Attendance at the Thursday 5/8/2017 meeting was down. Discussion centered around assignment of tasks, taken from a brainstorming session of prior meetings. Jed distributed the "picture" of the white board which listed the options being considered. The two options that seem to be getting the most attention are: 1) Consolidation of the district's elementary schools and tuitioning the high school students to Keene, and 2) Continuing the high school and having each town take responsibility for educating its own students. Neil noted that if the district dissolves, Richmond stands to receive a substantial sum of money back from the district since we have no school building. The next meeting of the Long Range Planning committee will be Thursday June 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Doug noted that the MRSD Budget Committee had not met, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 20, which will be the last meeting before the summer. The budget committee begins in earnest in September.

5. Update on meeting to be held with the NH Commissioner of Education. Doug noted that his meeting the commissioner is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday June 29. It was decided that having two of us in attendance. Peter had expressed some interest in attending so Doug and Peter can work out details if he is still willing and able to attend the meeting. We discussed prior questions to ask the commissioner including the policy direction and priorities he and the state will be pursuing; what educational options might be available for Richmond students based on events within the MRSD.
6. We reviewed the information to be gathered and some of the sources of the information we will need to put together options.
  - a. Doug will meet with the NH Commissioner of Education, research the school organizational structure in Antrim, NH, obtain district special education data, and determine the capacity of the Emerson School – might Emerson have room to include Richmond students? Doug will also be in contact with Jim Carnie to learn more about the withdrawal process.
  - b. Jed will meet with the principal at Westmoreland School, meet with the superintendent of Sullivan, explore the possibility of finding an attorney to outline the process for withdrawing from SAU 93, talk to Winchester about the possibility of Richmond students attending Winchester elementary, and talk to Keene about the possibility of Richmond students attending Keene schools.
  - c. Jed will talk to Peter about helping with these options and perhaps others. Other ideas include talking to SW Regional Planning Commission to obtain data regarding population trends – what do future school enrollments look like in the next 5 – 10 years.
7. Any other business – Jed noted that posting of the meetings must be done within 48 hours. Heidi will do this for us, we need only email her. The , even if unapproved, need to be available to the public within 5 day of the meeting. Jed will email the minutes to Heidi.
8. Next meeting date and time
  - a. We set the next meeting for Friday June 30, 2017 at 9:00 am at the Richmond library. Jed will check with Peter to be sure he can attend. This will be the day after the meeting with the NH Commissioner of Education.