

Richmond Adhoc Committee on Education

Tuesday August 8, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Richmond Library

MINUTES

1. Review and approval of agenda and minutes
 - a. Agenda reviewed and approved.
 - b. Minutes of June 29, 2017 reviewed and approved.
2. Public Comments
3. Review of our work since last meeting:
 - a. Review of update meeting with Selectboard on July 24, 2017 – Jed
 - i. An outline of the update was previously shared
 - ii. All present thought it accurately represented our work to date.
 - b. Update from MRSD: Long-range Planning and Budget Committee – Doug
 - i. LRP cancelled last meeting
 - ii. Michael Blair is leaving – expected that Lisa Steadman will be the next chair
 - iii. School board meeting tonight
 - iv. HB1303 – discusses break-up of Cooperative School Districts – laws currently governed by HB195 are being reviewed and rewritten – Doug has been asked to join the committee. Rob Mitchell from Gilsum is on the committee and MRSD attorney Shaunessy also serves on the committee. August 17 is next meeting.
 - v. Doug will write a report for the Selectboard to update them on H1303 and SB8.
 - c. Update on meeting with Winchester Superintendent/Business Mgr – Peter
 - i. Winchester superintendent seems enthusiastic to explore a partnership with Richmond. We will meet with the Winchester School Board on August 17 at 6:30 p.m. Quality of education and tuition rates will be on the agenda. We made it very clear at the initial meeting that we are charged to investigate options, not make decisions. Decisions will be made by the Richmond Selectboard.
 - ii. Peter is trying to arrange a meeting with the Keene Superintendent and Business Manager to determine what would be involved in becoming part of the SAU 29 AREA tuition agreement and whether or not Keene might be interested.

- d. Update on meeting with Sullivan/Surry Superintendent – Jed
 - i. Jed met with Dr. Ken Dassau to better understand the Surry/Sullivan withdrawal process. Ken shared information regarding his role as part-time superintendent of these two districts: budget, tuition agreements, school board operation, etc. This information was shared with the ad-hoc committee.
 - ii. Both Surry and Sullivan have withdrawn from the MRSD and now have their own school districts. This is an option that the adhoc committee is investigating for Richmond.

- e. Update on attempt to obtain ballpark school building information - Jed
 - i. Jed met with Matt Wheaton of the DEW Construction Corporation to discuss what would be involved in building an elementary school in Richmond and what it might cost. The adhoc committee discussed the possible numbers of students the building would need to serve along with possible square footage costs of a “stick-built” structure vs. a more robust steel frame, more traditional looking school.
 - ii. Matt has offered to attend a meeting to discuss these options.

- 4. Data Collection – we need to continue to seek information in the following areas:
 - a. Richmond Enrollment Numbers by grade level – updated in October
 - b. MRSD Cost per student and cost per student for Richmond – it appears Richmond may have a lower cost/student than other towns.
 - c. How is state/federal aid per student calculated and how does the money flow to offset some of the education costs?
 - d. Special Education Numbers and costs
 - e. Doug will be attending a workshop put on by MRSD Business Manager Jane Fortson for the MRSD Budget Committee where many of these questions should be answered. He may also schedule a time to meet with Jane.
 - f. Cost to operate an elementary school building must be calculated.

- 5. Preliminary work on pro’s and con’s of each alternative
 - a. We discussed the desire to begin working on drafts of this as it will make writing the final report much easier. Time did not allow it to begin at this meeting.

- 6. Work for next meeting
 - Continue data collection and visitation as outlined above.

- 7. Anything else?
 - a. No other issues were raised

8. Public Comments – No public comments

9. Next Meeting Date/Time

a. 4:00 p.m. Wednesday September 6, 2017 Richmond Library

10. Meeting was dismissed at 10:15 am