

Richmond Adhoc Committee on Education
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 31, 2017

In Attendance: Peter, Doug, Jed

1. Committee called a special meeting to review information from Doug after the last MRSD budget committee meeting and adhoc meeting of the school board which has formed an adhoc committee to consider ways to reduce school district costs.
2. The MRSD adhoc committee is considering a variety of options. Doug highlighted some of the options and will forward the minutes from the meeting once he receives them. Several options include:
 - a. Consolidation of the elementary schools into one school in Swanzey.
 - b. Tuition out of district students into the school. Help reduce tax burden.
 - c. Dissolving the district – letting every town fend for themselves.
3. The MRSD adhoc committee will meet every other Thursday. The next meeting will be Thursday June 8, 2017 in the MRHS library.
4. Doug is setting a meeting with the NH Commissioner of Education – Peter may be available to go. Doug will consider that option and let Peter know. Doug told the Commissioner that Richmond is considering educational options for Richmond students and the town's relationship with the MRSD. The commission responded that he would meet with Doug to discuss options.
5. Doug had sent the Claremont decision for us to review. The state legislative has never resolved the fact that the current means of funding education is unconstitutional. Some discussion of this matter and the implications for the committee's work.
6. We brainstormed several questions for Doug to ask the commissioner:
 - a. What will be the commissioner's educational policy and direction – relative to the work of this committee?
 - b. What options are available to the Town of Richmond for educating our students, that the state will support?

Other questions which may be better answered by someone other than the commissioner:

- c. What is the process by which a town withdraws from its SAU/district?
 - d. What is the process by which a town can join another SAU/district?
 - e. What is the process by which a town can form its own SAU/district, and what are the legal obligations, etc.?
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- 7. Peter advised us that we are an official committee of the town. We will need to post our meetings. Email notice of the next meeting Monday June 12 at 4:00 p.m. at the library. Jed will email Heidi/Susan. Visitors are welcome. We can anticipate others taking notice of our work once we begin doing our research.
 - 8. We all must see the Town Clerk to be sworn in.
 - 9. In lieu of today's discussion Peter will not attend the Selectboard meeting on Monday. Doug will plan to attend to update the Selectboard of recent meetings of the MRSD Budget Committee and the MRSD Adhoc Committee.
 - 10. Our next meeting will be Monday June 12 at 4:00 p.m. at the Richmond library. The agenda will include further updates from MRSD committees and the assignment of tasks to begin the process of research educational options.

James E. Butterfield