

Ad Hoc Committee for Inter-district Education Cost Sharing  
Programming Sub-Committee  
Special Meeting  
Minutes  
March 3, 2022

7PM

**Call to Order:** Chairman Bisson called the Meeting to order at 7:02PM.

**Roll Call:** Rose Bisson, Kathy Donahue, Wendy Sears, Juan Arriola, Cassidy Martin

**Audience for Citizens:** none.

**Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2022 Special Meeting**

**Motion:** Kathy Donahue, seconded by Wendy Sears, to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2022 Special Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Work Session for Budgetary Issues**

Wendy Sears reported that the committee's website was updated to include current membership and reviewed the revisions to the last draft of the *Combined Budget Model*. These included: a salary of \$115,000 for the principal with a range of \$110,000 - \$120,000; The District Reference Group added to the area superintendents' salary chart; the addition of the enumerator to the Towns' budgets, which slightly increased their expense lines; the reduction of the substitute line to \$15,000 for both Regular and Special Education Instruction. After discussion regarding staff attendance at PPT meetings, the substitute line for Special Education increased to \$20,000.

There was much discussion on using the combined school budget, versus the total amount of the combined school budget and the educational expenses transferred to the individual towns, to calculate the per pupil cost. By general consent, it was decided to change the language used in the chart on educational costs to clarify what the numbers represent as follows: change the \$16,608 "Per Pupil Cost" to "Pupil Basis Cost"; change the "Total Estimated General Education Budget" to "Total Estimated Combined School Budget"; change "Per Pupil Cost" to "Combined School Per Pupil Basis Cost"; change "General Budget Cost to Town" to "Combined School Budget Cost to Town"; change "Increase by Individual Town Expenses" to "Total Expense from General Education Budget to Individual Town BOE Budget" and to add to this line parenthetically "(Individual Town Expenses)" in order to identify this cost elsewhere on the chart.

Rose Bisson relayed that the subject of Special Education costs was raised at the meeting between the Hampton Elementary School Board of Education and the Governance Sub-Committee. Kathy Donahue, who also attended the meeting, explained that, as with the district's school, special education costs which involve out-placed tuition will be paid by the individual towns. She and Ms. Bisson agreed that the language in the proposed cooperative agreement is confusing and that the issue should be addressed by the full committee.

To Cassidy Martin's question, Ms. Bisson confirmed that the Hampton Elementary School has a capital plan and a capital and non-recurring account. Ms. Martin relayed that Scotland will be developing a capital plan. To Ms. Bisson's question on the combined school's surplus, Ms. Donahue said, that, as with the district, the surplus would be assessed per student count and applied to the next year's budget. The costs of Scotland's Pre-Kindergarten expenses were added to the combined budget, and it was decided that, while in all probability the Pre-Kindergarten program will continue to be largely funded, all grants typically received should be included in a separate document.

The discussion on enhancement services continued from the previous meeting. Ms. Donahue reported that extracurricular activities offered after school can be compensated hourly or as a stipend. She also reported on district partners in certain areas, such as science. Ms. Sears reported that Scotland has applied for a STEAP grant for the recreational field adjacent to the school and spoke to the possibility of intramural sports, with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders participating with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in teams as is the case with area middle schools. Ms. Martin noted that Parish Hill's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders currently use the Scotland gymnasium for basketball practice. Reporting on instruction in Spanish, Juan Arriola stated that, while a daily class is optimum, a second option would be classes offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with a certified teacher. Ms. Martin offered that computer programs, such as Duolingo, could be supplemental to the classes offered in school, as well as extending to other languages as extracurricular options. It was agreed that these enhancements should be included in the presentation, along with their costs, and that community interest should be solicited as well. Ms. Martin noted that there's grant funding for enrichment, and Ms. Donahue stated that the combined budget doubled the amount on the enrichment line. Ms. Bisson volunteered to research Duolingo for elementary school students, Mr. Arriola will research the costs of a Spanish instructor, including benefits, and he and Ms. Martin will check on current and former after school clubs in their respective towns.

By general consent, it was agreed to request a full committee meeting after the next governance sub-committee meeting in order to present the budget model and to discuss the special education portion of the draft cooperative agreement. Ms. Sears and Ms. Bisson will start the process of the report's narrative.

### **General Discussion**

By general consent, it was agreed to meet on March 17, 2022 at 7PM.

### **Audience for Citizens:**

Rachel Lavoie inquired as to when parents will be apprised of the committee's findings. Ms. Bisson directed Ms. Lavoie to the First Selectmen of the two towns, adding that a draft plan will probably be presented to the towns in the next month. Ms. Donahue added that all meetings of the full committee and the sub-committees have been posted and open to the public, with the exception of the governance sub-committee which has discussed the draft version of the cooperative agreement in executive sessions, per their attorney's recommendation. Ms. Lavoie also expressed her concern on the length of the bus rides, with Hampton utilizing only two buses this year, instead of the previous three. Ms. Bisson stated that a late bus would be provided specifically for after school functions. To Ms. Lavoie's question on the establishment of a middle school, Ms. Bisson explained that an earlier proposal to combine the three towns and provide a middle school in one of the buildings failed in a referendum vote. Ms. Lavoie also asked what would happen to the building if a school were to close in one of the towns. Ms. Bisson explained that the Boards of Education would decide on the adoption of the cooperative agreement and the legislative body, in a Town Meeting or referendum, would decide on the use of the buildings.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola