

Ad Hoc Committee for Inter-district Education Cost Sharing  
Programming Sub-Committee  
Special Meeting

September 29, 2021

6PM

**Call to Order:** Gary Greenberg called the Meeting to order at 6:15PM.

**Roll Call:** Gary Greenberg, Kathy Donahue, Rose Bisson, Angela Maschka, Wendy Sears, Juan Arriola, Brynn Lipstreu.

Gary Greenberg reported that the Governance Sub-Committee at their Meeting of September 28 recommended hiring Attorney Fred Dorsey to work with the committee. Rose Bisson cautioned that one of the questions posed to the attorney wasn't answered consistently. Mr. Greenberg explained that there seemed to be a disconnect between the question and the answer regarding advisory questions, which give citizens a voice, and the adoption of a cooperative agreement for shared services, which would ultimately be the responsibility, and the decision, of the school boards. Mr. Greenberg also reminded members that the committee was seeking to serve the students from both towns in one school before leaving at 6:22PM and turning the meeting over to Rose Bisson.

**Establishment of Meeting Dates**

By general consent, the following meeting dates were established for 2021:

October 6 at 7PM

October 20 at 7PM

November 3 at 7PM

November 17 at 7PM

December 1 at 7PM

December 15 at 7PM

A schedule of the meeting dates and times will be submitted to the Town Clerks of both towns.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** Wendy Sears, seconded by Angela Maschka, to approve the September 15, 2021 Minutes.

Motion carried, 5-0, Juan Arriola abstaining.

**General Discussion**

Rose Bisson suggested that the sub-committee discuss reasonable class sizes, emphasizing that this will be a skeletal outline only at this point, giving members some clue as to possible staffing, and that the governing body in the future would determine the number of students per class.

Brynn Lipstreu explained that currently, the School Readiness Grant covers pre-school students in both towns and allows 18 slots for students in each school, for a combined total of 36 slots.

Though most members agreed that Kindergarten should be limited to 15 students, Kathy Donahue and Juan Arriola advocated for a paraprofessional in kindergartens with 20-25 students.

By general consent, it was agreed on a class size of 20-25 students in grades 1 - 4.

Though most members agreed to continue that range for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, Juan Arriola advocated for a maximum of 30 students for grades 5 and 6.

The next discussion focused on special classes.

While most members agreed that students in grades PK – grade 1 should receive gym twice a week for two 30 minute sessions, with students in grades 2 – 6 receiving gym twice a week for two 40 minute sessions, Juan Arriola concurred with the amount of minutes, but stated his belief that gym should be limited to one session per grade per week.

By general consent, it was agreed that health class should be provided once a week for a 30 minute period.

While most members agreed that students in grades PK – 1 should receive two, 30 minute music classes per week, and students in grades 2 – 6 should receive two 40 minute music classes per week, Juan Arriola advocated for one music class per grade per week as well as periods of time for instrumental music lessons, band and chorus. It was agreed that instrumental music lessons and band should be provided during school hours and chorus should be offered after school.

By general consent, it was agreed that students should receive art instruction once a week for 40 or 45 minutes, though students in PK – 1 might benefit from two 30 minute sessions. It was agreed to consult with the art teachers regarding the amount of minutes that should be scheduled for the younger students. After Brynn Lipstreu, Wendy Sears and Juan Arriola advocated for students to spend their time in the library with books, it was agreed that students should be given two library/media classes per week, with one class concentrating on books and library science skills, and the other on computer skills. Members also advocated for a library/media specialist as well as a paraprofessional to keep the library open at all times for student use.

After the discussions, Brynn Lipstreu agreed to supply Rose Bisson with the numbers of students per grade in Scotland Elementary. Wendy Sears volunteered to compile the numbers of students per grade from the two schools. Rose Bisson volunteered to work on sample schedules for the special classes discussed. Angela Maschka suggested that projections be included in the numbers. Ms. Lipstreu said that Gary Greenberg can supply Scotland's birthrate statistics and Kathy Donahue said that Allan Cahill can supply Hampton's. Ms. Bisson stated that the enrollment figures fluctuate from year to year, and Ms. Donahue noted that the area, and the entire state, is experiencing a decline in student enrollment.

### **Audience for Citizens**

Maryellen Donnelly stated that the State Department of Education has information on the importance of physical education. She also noted that SRBI needs to be addressed, and the committee should determine methods of internally testing skill levels of students for proper placement. She also advocated for multi-age instruction, which Hampton Elementary has been employing. To Kathy Donahue's question, Brynn Lipstreu said that only the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades at Scotland Elementary have multi-age groupings.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Sub-Committee, the Meeting adjourned at 7:46AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola  
Recording Secretary