

Ad Hoc Committee for Inter-district Education Cost Sharing

July 29, 2021

5:00PM

Call to Order: Gary Greenberg called the Meeting to order at 5:06PM.

Roll Call: Gary Greenberg, Allan Cahill, Kathy Donahue, Rose Bisson, Juan Arriola, Clare D'Appollonio, Tom McAvoy.

Not present: Brynn Lipstreu, Angela Maschka.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Kathy Donahue, seconded by Rose Bisson, to approve the June 10, 2021 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously, Juan Arriola, Clare D'Appollonio and Tom McAvoy abstaining.

Ms. Bisson clarified that the Hampton Elementary School Board of Education never received a tuition offer from Scotland for Hampton students to attend Scotland school, as recorded in the April Minutes.

Additions to the Agenda: none.

Introduction of New Members: Former officials and Scotland residents Clare D'Appollonio and Tom McAvoy, and Hampton Elementary School Board of Education member Juan Arriola have been appointed to the committee, as well as Scotland resident and parent Angela Maschka. It was noted that another member must be appointed from Hampton to have equal representation from the two towns.

Creation of Subcommittees

Gary Greenberg reviewed previous discussions regarding the need to address educational programming and governance issues in developing a cooperative agreement between the two schools. Clare D'Appollonio suggested that the committee build on the current School Readiness Council, which already joins the two schools in a collaborative effort, noting that many members of this committee have served on the Council or are otherwise familiar with it. She explained that the council was initiated in response to the State's encouragement of a regional effort to provide pre-school experiences and membership includes school nurses, representatives from the towns' libraries, administrators and board members from both schools, or their designees, the First Selectmen from each town, or their designees, and parents. An EastConn employee keeps records and provides over site and is paid with Readiness Council funds. Though the Council applies for and accepts grants for the two towns together, the schools run their own programs. Members agreed to review the Council's by-laws which could serve as a template. Mr. Greenburg noted that the Council could also serve as a model of cooperation between the two towns, as it has worked well.

It was decided that the committee would divide into two sub-committees, an Educational Program Committee and a Governance Committee. The Educational Program Committee is charged with studying the delivery of educational services equivalent to the services students are currently receiving from each of the two schools. While Rose Bisson stated that curriculum is State driven, Kathy Donahue noted that the schools might currently employ different educational models. Student populations are similar, with approximately 160-165 students enrolled in the two schools. Ms. Donahue suggested that population projections are included for the suggested term of the cooperative agreement. The following members were appointed to the Educational Program Committee: Rose Bisson, Juan Arriola, Brynn Lipstreu, Clare D'Appollonio and Angela Maschka. The Governance Committee is charged with financial and governance matters, including budgeting. The following members were appointed to the Governance Committee: Rose Bisson, Gary Greenburg, Allan Cahill, Kathy Donahue, and Tom McAvoy.

Rose Bisson stated that the Boards of Education would ultimately be responsible for approval of the cooperative agreement; Kathy Donahue suggested that residents could vote on an advisory question on cooperative agreements between the two schools.

Meeting Dates 2021-2022

After discussion, it was decided to schedule the monthly meetings of each committee on Mondays at 6PM, as long as these days and times are convenient for the members not present. It was also decided to conduct hybrid meetings for members of the committees and the public to participate virtually, and that the locations of the meetings would alternate between the two towns. The Educational Program Committee's goal is to complete its work by Thanksgiving, and the Governance Committee expects to complete its work next spring.

Audience for Citizens: none.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Meeting adjourned at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary