

HEART COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of August 30, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Michele Giarusso, Chair
Tracy Rogers, Secretary
Cheryl George

Bob Keir
Tony Matteo
Sue O'Reilly McRae

Ginger Robinson
Bill Wahlstrom

Committee Members Absent:

Lisa Armstrong , Joseph Arsenault , Claire Brennan, Jennifer Comiskey, Richard Fontaine, Alan Genovese, Jennifer Glazier, Lynn Hansell, Renee Keir, Jack Killeen , Shannon Miner

Others Present:

Debbie Lynangale, facilitator; Willie Morales, Northfield town administrator

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Minutes

Bob moved to approve minutes from the August 16, 2017 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Tony and carried by a unanimous vote.

Opening Announcements

Bob received from Ruth Miller a copy of the District Agreement that has been vetted by the State Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). It's full of suggestions for changes, including the fact that any amendment has to be pre-approved by the Commissioner of DESE *before* it goes before a town meeting for a vote.

Michele reported that Alan took an interim superintendent position in Winchester, NH. He still wants to be involved in the Committee, but can't make it to meetings through at least September.

Reflections on School Committee Meeting

Michele reported that the School Committee gave the HEART Committee a unanimous vote of endorsement.

Pearl Rhodes' principal has resigned and the superintendent has asked Bernardston's principal to serve both schools for the time being. At the end of the School Committee meeting, the superintendent reported that the HEART Committee is considering closing Leyden School, leading Committee members at the meeting to clarify that, while that is a consideration, it is not where the Committee's efforts are focused.

The School Committee asked to have the HEART Committee send a letter to all of the selectboards reporting on our progress. Michele will write and send this update.

Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Study Consultant

Willie handed out a draft list of questions that the Committee might want the study consultant to answer, which would be included in the RFP. The Committee added several questions to the list, which Willie will incorporate and pare down to get to the essentials.

The amount of data we want them to research and analyze is likely much more than the \$20,000 grant will cover. Perhaps we can have the consultant get a chunk of the work done and then ask the towns to invest money to continue the research.

District Agreement Review

Bob and Tony will review the District Agreement containing DESE's comments. Debbie will wait on her survey until the new review is complete and the Committee has a chance to review Tony and Bob's analysis during the next meeting.

It was reported that the School Committee hasn't reviewed the comments from DESE since they received them last fall. It was suggested to bring the revised review to the next School Committee meeting and get on the same page with the School Committee about reviewing it.

Revisiting Other Aspects of HEART Mission, Next Steps

Tabled due to time constraints.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 6:30 p.m. at the Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church St.

HOMEWORK:

- **Sue will check with Bob Pura and others on the former Franklin County regional school study. Tracy will check with Linda Dunlavy and Michele will check with Stan regarding the same study.**
- **Tony and Bob will review the District Agreement with DESE's comments and reach out to Alan to see if he has time to review it as well.**

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy Rogers