

**Joint Meeting of the North Middlesex Regional Expansion Subcommittee  
and Lunenburg Regional Planning Committee**

**Minutes**

Monday, June 14, 2010  
North Middlesex Regional High School

**PRESENT**

Rob Templeton	NM Subcommittee Chair –Townsend
Sue Fitzgerald	NM Subcommittee Member - Pepperell
Randee Rusch	NM Subcommittee Member – At Large
Dr. Gregory Berthiaume	Lunenburg Regional Planning Committee Member
Brendan Gray	Lunenburg Regional Planning Committee Member
Milree Keeling	Lunenburg Regional Planning Committee Member

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools, North Middlesex Regional
Loxi Calmes	Superintendent of Schools, Lunenburg Public Schools
Dr. Deborah Brady	Assistant Superintendent, NM
Barbara Conti	Director of Human Resources, NM
Sheila Muir	Director of Curriculum & Instruction, NM
Community Members	
Press	

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

1. Meeting participants introduced themselves.
2. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair
  - a. A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Milree Keeling to appoint Rob Templeton as Chair of the Joint Subcommittee to Explore Regional Expansion.  
  
The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. A motion was made by Dr. Berthiaume and seconded by Brendan Grady to appoint Milree Keeling as Vice Chair of the Joint Subcommittee to Explore Regional Expansion.  
  
The motion passed unanimously.
3. Appointment of Secretary  
  
A motion was made by Rob Templeton and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to appoint Nancy Landry as secretary.  
  
The motion passed unanimously.
4. General Business
  - a. Length of Meetings – The Subcommittee agreed to schedule meetings on Monday evenings to begin at 7:00 PM and conclude by 9:00 PM

- b. Meeting Schedule – The Subcommittee set the following dates for meetings: July 26, 2010, August 9, 2010 and August 30, 2010. Subsequent meetings to be scheduled in September.
- c. Quorum Rules – The Subcommittee agreed that four members would constitute a quorum (2 members from each school district) and four members (from either district) would be necessary to adjourn.

## 5. Goals of the Process

Rob Templeton summarized the goals set up by the North Middlesex Regional Expansion Subcommittee. They are as follows:

- To investigate the pro's and con's of Lunenburg joining North Middlesex Regional School District
- To investigate the financial impact of regional expansion to all member towns
- To explore the educational benefits of regional expansion
- To investigate infrastructure possibilities (new construction, renovation)

A discussion ensued.

Brendan Grady stated that the Lunenburg Regional Planning Committee's goals were similar to the aforementioned goals. The goals of Lunenburg were as follows:

- To investigate the financial impact of joining NM
- Explore educational opportunities and cost of opportunities (quality of education)
- To investigate governance opportunities (cost/risk/benefit)
- To review goals/objectives
- Is regional expansion feasible and if so, establish a mutually agreeable regional agreement

The discussion continued. The Subcommittee agreed to go forward with information gathering for possible recommendation to member towns.

## 6. Formation of Joint Committee

The two committees agreed to the formation of a Joint Committee to Explore Regional Expansion between NMRSD and Lunenburg.

## 7. Summary of Actions To-Date

Superintendents Marshall and Calmes summarized the joint meeting of the NM and Lunenburg Central Office Administrators and reviewed the list of information being gathered by the Administrators of NM and Lunenburg. The list includes the following:

- Human Resources – staffing patterns, payroll, personnel contracts, etc.
- Special Education – programs, grants, 504, eSPED, RTI, circuit breaker, staffing patterns, collaborative memberships, contracted services, etc.
- Curriculum/Instruction & Assessment – program of studies, arts, grants, Title 1, scheduling, ELE, mentoring, etc.
- Technology – DESE reporting, software/hardware management, BAN width, etc.
- High School – staffing patterns, handbooks, enrollment projections, athletics, SPED programs, extra curriculum and athletics
- Governance – school committee organization, regional agreement, policies, partial regionalization, superintendency unions
- Budget – creation of a mock K-12 budget, assessments, potential enhancements, Schedule 19
- Transportation – mock schedule for bussing, cost of transportation, route formation
- Unified Arts/Extra Curricular Activities/Athletics – review of current programs
- Plant & Facilities – review of current or future projects, Statements of Interest, lease of town-owned buildings

The Central Office Administrators will report their findings at a meeting to be held in mid July.

A discussion ensued. Committee members suggested other areas for analysis.

Supt. Calmes suggested the Committee send a letter to the DESE (Jeff Wulfson) notifying him that a joint committee has been officially formed, to request assistance, and invite Mr. Wulfson to a future meeting.

8. Lunenburg List of Considerations

The Committee discussed the List of Considerations submitted by the Lunenburg Regional Planning Committee (attached).

Members from Lunenburg reviewed a few issues of particular concern:

- Does regional expansion provide opportunity to restructure labor contracts
- Are philosophies and strategies relative to school choice similar
- SBA Issues: regional incentive points, if new school is constructed would SBA allow special circumstance for demolition of old buildings
- Impact on assessments
- Ensuring continuation of model of service for SPED students

Supt. Calmes suggested the Committee draft a letter to SBA regarding analysis of buildings. The Chair and Vice Chair agreed to draft a letter.

9. Public Comment

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. No one from the public addressed the Committee.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held on Monday, July 26, 2010 at 7:00 PM at North Middlesex Regional High School.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Randee Rusch to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary