

Joint Committee to Explore Regional Expansion between North Middlesex and Lunenburg

Minutes

Monday, August 9, 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 Grady	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 7:05 PM

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Milree Keeling and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of June 14, 2010 as written.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Superintendents' Update on Activities To-Date

Superintendents Calmes and Marshall reported that the Central Office Administrators from NM and Lunenburg as well as the High School Principals from both districts met to begin data gathering. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges were discussed. The meetings have been very productive. Supt. Calmes and Marshall recognized the efforts of the Central Office Teams in both districts.

3. Timetable for Deliverables

Committee members discussed the need to draft assumptions and the level of detail necessary.

A discussion ensued regarding the regional agreement, governance, and various ways to adhere to one man/one vote law.

Representatives from Lunenburg stated their desire to get confirmation that the NMRSD School Committee is willing to look at amending the regional agreement.

A discussion ensued.

NM Representatives acknowledged that the NMRSD School Committee empowered the Subcommittee members to have discussions with Lunenburg. The NM School Committee will discuss the authority for action at their next meeting.

The Committee provided the Supt. with a preliminary list of assumptions. They include:

- Legacy benefits (switching to different retirement system)
- Capital costs

- School Choice/Charter
- Staffing Patterns/organizational chart
- Transportation
- Health Insurance
- New School Building (high school level)
- Expanding Region – only if new High School or Expand Region regardless of new building
- Regional Agreement – make certain regional agreement is refashioned to meet the needs of the new entity

The Committee briefly discussed potential deal breakers. Representatives from Lunenburg indicated that the availability of transition money and willingness to be open-minded regarding new district were potential deal breakers for them.

The Committee discussed sending a letter to the DESE with questions that need to be answered regarding forming/expanding a region and potential financial support from the state in support of the process.

A motion was made by Gregory Berthiaume and seconded by Brendan Gray to authorize the Chair to send a letter to DESE to seek clarification on forming/expanding a region, the legitimacy to go forward with process and to ascertain if financial support of process is available at the DESE level.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Criteria for Canceling Meetings

The Committee discussed the criteria for canceling meetings, quorum, and number of votes necessary for passing a motion.

A motion was made by Gregory Berthiaume and seconded by Randee Rusch that a quorum would consist of two members from each group to be present and a motion would require two members from North Middlesex and two members from Lunenburg in order to pass.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The Committee set the following dates for their next meetings:

- Monday, August 30th
- Monday, September 13th
- Tuesday, September 28th (tentative)

The above scheduled meeting will be held at the North Middlesex Regional High School and will begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise posted.

6. Public Comment

Anne Adams of Pepperell addressed the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary