

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

REGIONAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT COMMITTEE
A Subcommittee of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee

Minutes of December 4, 2017

Held at the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School
600 Franklin Street, Whitman

Meeting convened: 6:02 p.m.
Meeting adjourned: 6:51 p.m.

Voting members of the School Committee Members Present:

Robert Hayes (Chair), Fred Small (Vice Chair), Christopher Howard

Other RAAC Voting Members Present:

Daniel Salvucci, Christopher George, James Egan, Rick Anderson, James Hickey

RAAC Voting Members absent:

Amy Wright

Administrators present:

Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Superintendent of Schools
Christine Suckow, Executive Director of Business Services
Kyle Riley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

MARS Representatives present:

Mac Reid, Steve Donovan

1) Call to Order – Chair (Bob Hayes)

Chair Hayes brought the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded.

2) Approval of November 13, 2017 minutes

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Salvucci seconded; voted to amend the November 13, 2017 Regional Agreement Amendment Committee minutes to correct the spelling of Mr. Anderson’s last name, omit the line referring to Section VI on page 4 “Section VI - Amendments – no changes” and omit “Leases” as part of the handouts. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hickey abstained.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Salvucci seconded; voted to approve the November 13, 2017 Regional Agreement Amendment Committee meeting minutes, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Second Review of Sections I, II, III, V

Mr. Donovan reviewed all proposed edits from the November 13, 2017 RAAC meeting. It was noted that sections related to capital and debt process (Section IV – Apportionment and Payment of Costs incurred by the District; Section X – Budget) will be reviewed in a separate meeting at a later date.

Mr. Reid discussed the timetable for presenting the completed proposed amended regional agreement and recommended not presenting the final document as a warrant article during budget season at town meeting.

However, Chair Hayes suggested if the proposed amended agreement can be completed in a timely fashion, it may be in the best interest to include it in time for the 2018 Annual May Town Meetings, mainly because the Town of Whitman only holds one town meeting annually. And, requesting a special town meeting may be prohibitive. Several Committee members offered comments supporting the proposed amendment be included at the May Town Meetings. The Committee also acknowledged time constraints associated with the administrative process for submitting an amended regional agreement to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Mr. Donovan continued reviewing changes discussed at the last meeting (Sections I, II, III, and V) and proposed the Committee vote to approve the final changes after the review. Additional minor language changes were proposed and will be brought forth for another final review at the next meeting. Mrs. Suckow explained how the transportation is assessed to the towns and is based on actual eligible ridership over and under the 1.5 miles. Language in this Section (V) will also be re-defined. It was the consensus of Committee to hold off on voting once the final language adjustments are presented for review.

4) Regional Agreement Review – Beginning with Section VI

The Committee reviewed the balance of each section of the current agreement, with the exception of Section IV (Apportionment and Payment of Costs incurred by the District), Section X (Budget), and Section XI (Incurring of Debt). Minor language changes were proposed and items and/or sections no longer valid or pertinent were stricken based on current relevancy for regional schools, jurisdiction, etc. The final executed agreement and signature page will also be updated to reflect a signature line for each town clerk, as required.

It is anticipated that remaining Sections IV, X and XI will be reviewed at the January meeting along with all changes made to date.

5) Public participation

Chair Hayes reminded the community all are welcome to attend the public meetings and encouraged community input and discussion.

6) Future meeting dates – 6:00-7:30 PM

Future dates: (1/29/18, 2/26/18, 3/26/18, 4/30/18, 5/28/18)

The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2018, at the Regional High School library at 6:00 p.m.

7) Adjourn

VOTE: Mr. Salvucci motioned; Mr. Small seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Meeting Materials and Handouts:

Attachments:

- 11/13/17 RAAC meeting minutes
- Modified Regional Agreement
- “Clean” modified Regional Agreement – as discussed