

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Minutes of March 19, 2018

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

Meeting convened: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting adjourned: 7:02 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:

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 6:00 p.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded.

2) Approval of February 26, 2018 minutes

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Salvucci seconded; voted to approve the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) meeting minutes of February 26, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Review of all sections of the Regional Agreement

Mr. Reid reported changes made at the February 28, 2018 meeting were processed and the Draft Amended Agreement was sent to Christine Lynch, Governance and Facilities Program Manager at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for a second review. Mr. Reid reported Ms. Lynch suggested minor changes and indicated the Draft Regional Agreement (RA) Amendment was sent to legal at DESE for review.

Mr. Reid and Mr. Donovan reviewed all sections of the Agreement as recently amended in previous meetings. Mr. Reid and Mr. Donovan provided separate memorandums on Section III (B) Lease & Section V (C) (3), and Section IX Withdrawal (Section IX) that were reviewed separately with suggested language amendments. These were reviewed following the review of the minor language changes throughout the remainder of the Draft Amended Agreement dated 3/15/2018. A summary of minor changes were as follows: Under Section V, Apportionment and Payment of Costs incurred by the District, it was confirmed that all transportation costs (both mandated and non-mandated) would be

invoiced separately and not part of operating costs. The proportionate share of the aggregate Above Minimum Contribution shall be determined based on the ratio of pupil enrollment, “including out-of-district pupils”. Minor suggested language changes from DESE under (E) Transportation, related to the amount of Chapter 71 transportation reimbursement, were made. Mrs. Suckow confirmed the District handles transportation reimbursement in that manner already.

Section III (B) Lease

The Committee reviewed alternative language presented in a memo from Mr. Reid and Mr. Donovan. The new language was developed to create a clearer understanding of terms of leasing the elementary and middle schools and provide a more generalized approach for emergency repair items. The Committee discussed differences between capital projects and repairs, the minimum of \$5,000 to be a capital repair, and normal routine maintenance costs that are not capital repairs. Currently, the Regional Agreement language implies that there will be debt involved in all capital projects which have to go to a town meeting vote. At times, the town may take from free cash or its budget to cover capital repairs and does not have to incur debt, which does not prevent a town from incurring debt. The new language allows for greater flexibility for all parties. It was noted that a Regional Agreement should not dictate how the town handles a capital project request from the school district.

Section IX - Withdrawal

The Committee reviewed alternative language under Section IX – Withdrawal introduced in a memo from Mr. Reid and Mr. Donovan. New language under (A) Limitation, “will result in the dissolution of the District”. The Committee discussed the impact of a member town withdrawal, and reviewed the language for the procedure for withdrawal, the obligations of the member towns, and the approval by a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting. In addition, language to address the cessation of a member town that would create dissolution of the District and a division of assets would occur was reviewed and approved.

4) Vote on amendments to Regional Agreement

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Howard seconded; voted to approve all amendments to the Draft Amended Regional Agreement for the Whitman-Hanson School District, as presented on March 26, 2018, subject to the approval of legal counsel for the School District, Town of Whitman, Town of Hanson, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as presented and discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

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 date – 6:00-7:30 PM

Future dates: (if needed)

7) Adjourn

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Egan seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Meeting Materials and Handouts:

- 3/19/2018 Meeting Agenda
- 2/26/2018 RAAC meeting minutes

- Modified Regional Agreement – showing original language & all changes (electronic)
- “Clean” modified Regional Agreement – as discussed by RAAC
- “Final” version of Regional Agreement – if all sections approved (electronic)
- Lease Alternative memo
- Withdrawal Alternative memo