

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Minutes of April 9, 2018 - DRAFT

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

Meeting convened: 6:02 p.m.
Meeting adjourned: 6:42 p.m.

Voting members of the School Committee Members Present:

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

Other RAAC Voting Members Present:

James Hickey, James Egan arrived at 6:04 p.m., and Daniel Salvucci arrived at 6:28 p.m.

RAAC Voting Members absent:

Christopher Howard, Rick Andersen, Christopher George, and Amy Wright

Administrators present:

Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Superintendent of School
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.

There were brief discussions and no votes were taken until a quorum was met for voting purposes.

Dr. Whitner reported she sent an email to the RAAC Committee with information on a recommendation from Christine Lynch at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to include a sentence to clarify language in the Incurring of Debt Section IX. Mr. Reid added the addition provides methods for both the Board of Selectmen and School Committee to put forth a warrant to incur debt to the voters as outlined under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71 Section 16 Status; power and duties in paragraphs (d) and (n).

The members discussed the decision and vote previously made by the RAAC Committee to eliminate the (former Section X) Withdrawal of Elementary Grades Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8. The former section allowed for one town to withdraw by a two-thirds vote at their annual or special town meeting. The former language included sections on vote, notification, and apportionment of capital costs after withdrawal, but did not address assets and other liabilities including Other Post Employment Benefits or OPEB.

It was noted that the current Section IX – Withdrawal, provides processes for all aspects of the withdrawal. Should a member town consider withdrawal, the committee and towns will follow a voting approval process and, consequently, dissolving the district. A new agreement would need to be adopted if

the towns considered regionalization any specific grade levels. The committee discussed preparations for discussion of the proposed amended regional agreement at the upcoming annual town meetings in May.

Upon reaching a quorum, the Committee reviewed the agenda items and voted accordingly.

2) Approval of March 19, 2018 minutes

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Egan seconded; voted to approve the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) meeting minutes of March 19, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Review and Vote on Section VI – Incurring of Debt

Mr. Reid reported that at the suggestion from Ms. Christine Lynch (Governance and Facilities Program Manager at DESE), one additional sentence was recommended to be added to the end of Section VI, Incurring of Debt as follows “Debt may be incurred by the District, if approved by the member towns in accordance with the Committee’s chosen method under MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (d) or Section 16 (n).” n. This addition does not change the meaning or intent of the section, but it clarifies a legal point.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Egan seconded; voted to approve the one additional sentence was recommended to be added to the end of Section VI, Incurring of Debt as follows “Debt may be incurred by the District, if approved by the member towns in accordance with the Committee’s chosen method under MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (d) or Section 16 (n).”, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Discuss Amended Withdrawal of Elementary Grades Pre-K to 8

There was additional discussion on Withdrawal of Elementary Grades Pre-K to 8. Mr. Reid stated that if it is the Committee’s pleasure to add it back to the amended RA, the section would need to include additional language on debt, assets and liabilities, as it exists already in the new Section IX.

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:

A future meeting date was not set. The Full School Committee will review and vote on the proposed Amended Regional Agreement at their meeting on April 11, 2018.

7) Adjourn

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Egan seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Meeting Materials and Handouts:

- 04/09/2018 Meeting Agenda
- 3/19/2018 RAAC meeting minutes
- Overview of Section VI and (Removed) Withdrawal of Elementary Grades Pre-K to 8 language