

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Minutes of November 13, 2017

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

Meeting convened: 6:03 p.m.
Meeting adjourned: 7:23 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 Hickey, James Egan

RAAC Voting Members absent:

Rick Anderson, 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

Call to Order

Chair Hayes brought the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and announced the meeting was being broadcast live and recorded.

Approval of September 25, 2017 minutes

Agreements to date

- Co-Chair Elected
 - Frederick Small, School Committee Member (Whitman)
 - Robert Hayes, School Committee Member (Hanson)

On a motion made by Mr. Small and seconded by Mr. Salvucci to approve the meeting minutes of September 25, 2017, Chair Hayes announced that the RAAC would consist of a Chair and Vice Chair as opposed to consisting of two Co-chairs.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Salvucci seconded; voted to amend the meeting minutes of September 25, 2017, to indicate Robert Hayes as Chair and Frederick Small as Vice Chair of the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee as opposed to having co-chairs. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Salvucci seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of September 25, 2017, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Regional Agreement Review

Mr. Reid indicated the process for the Committee to amend the current Regional Agreement, the Committee will thoroughly review each “Section” of the current regional Agreement to discuss and edit accordingly. Mr. Reid indicated upon initial review of the draft document, housekeeping edits were made to utilize abbreviations for references of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee hereinafter referred to as “Committee”, Massachusetts General Law hereinafter referred to as “MGL”, the towns of Whitman and Hanson hereinafter referred to as the “member towns” the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District hereinafter referred to as “District”, and code of Massachusetts Regulations hereinafter referred to as “CMR”.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Howard seconded; voted utilize abbreviations for references of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee hereinafter referred to as “Committee”, Massachusetts General Law hereinafter referred to as “MGL”, the towns of Whitman and Hanson hereinafter referred to as the “member towns” the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District hereinafter referred to as “District”, and Code of Massachusetts Regulations hereinafter referred to as “CMR”, as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

The RAAC anticipates voting each change going through the document and then one vote at the very end to approve amendments/changes to the Agreement.

Mr. Reid reviewed the formal voting process to amend a regional agreement as discussed previously. RAAC votes → Regional SC votes → DESE (preliminary) → all Towns vote → DESE final approval.

Mr. Reid presented copies of the “modified” Amended Agreement consisting of the preliminary work done to date. Mr. Reid presented changes throughout the modified agreement and explained that written language throughout the document, blue, red or black letters, are identified as recommendations. Language in blue is to be eliminated, language in red is language to be added, and language in black will remain as existing language.

The Committee began review of the document beginning with the opening statement adjustments with slight modifications to the language.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Howard seconded; voted to approve the first two paragraphs of the Amended Regional Agreement draft, as amended and read. The motion passed unanimously.

SECTION I - THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A. Powers, Duties and Composition

Edit: (1) (a) Clarification added that the permanent Committee would consist of ten members based on population in the member towns.

Edit: (1) (b) New wording to be added.

The Committee discussed reviewing the agreement either every five years or ten years to confirm the general town census figures establishing the number of school committee members and determining if any shift in population exists and apply the one-person, one-vote principle. Mr. Reid will draft a clause to the effect that if town populations become more disparate than 10%, the votes would go to weighted votes or the number of Committee members would be adjusted. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Edit: C. Elected members - to be deleted.

Edit: Governing Principle - to be deleted.

Edit: (2) no changes.

Edit: (3) language in blue to be eliminated, updated language in red

Edit: (4) Eliminate language in blue – “1992 district election, etc.”

B. Interim Committee

Edit: Entire section to be eliminated.

Governing Principle

Edit: Eliminated governing principle

D. Vacancies – no changes.

E. Organization

Edit: May be a duplicated section, will review, correct and merge.

Edit: Eliminate qualification of successors language.

Edit: Change “Chair” to “Chairperson”.

At this time, it was the consensus of the Committee to table voting each section until the entire amended section is complete and available for review.

SECTION II – TYPE OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Edit: Language to be generalized.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. George seconded; voted to approve Section II, as amended and discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

SECTION III – LOCATION OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

A. Regional School District

Edit: It was the consensus of the Committee to remove location of the high school and towns of residence, as noted in blue as changes. Also changes in paragraph 2 and eliminate last sentence.

B. Lease of Present Schools

Edit: It was the consensus of the Committee to remove the school building names and locations as currently listed and eliminate outdated language.

C. Termination of Leases

Edit: Change to “on the effective date of such withdrawal”

SECTION IV – APPORTIONMENT AND PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT. It was the consensus of the Committee to table review of Section IV to a later date.

SECTION V – TRANSPORTATION

Edit: The Committee discussed state mandated and non-mandated bussing and the process for appropriations or providing funding for transportation costs incurred by the District. It was the consensus of the Committee to either leave existing language or develop language better clarifying the current process.

SECTION VI – AMENDMENTS

The Committee will begin review of “SECTION VI AMENDMENTS” at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2017 at the Regional High School library at 6:00 p.m.

VOTE: Mr. George motioned; Mr. Howard seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Meeting Materials and Handouts:

- 9/25/2017 RAAC meeting minutes
- Updated list of RAAC members
- Modified Regional Agreement