

**Norfolk/Colebrook
School Study Committee
Fiscal Subcommittee**

Minutes to Meeting of February 17, 2015

Members Present

G. Counter, M. Crone, S. Dyer, J. Millar

Members Absent

P. Vosburgh, J. Chittum

Others Present

W. Wood

The meeting convened at 8:35 a.m.

1. Discussed the allocation method presented to the State Department of Education on February 4: namely, compute each town's average share of the combined "as is" budget during the first five years of the forecast and use those average shares to allocate the regional budget. The shares work out to 57.4% for Norfolk and 47.6% for Colebrook, assuming the forecast period begins in 2015-16. During the second five years, the new regional board will adjust these shares annually to comply with the statutory, enrollment based allocation no later than the 10th year. There was unanimous agreement to recommend this allocation method to the full committee.
2. Discussed the enrollment projections, noting that Colebrook's actual enrollment of 92 in 2014-15 is below the 98 projected two years ago by Peter Prowda. Norfolk is on target – 102 actual versus 101 projected – however, there was a consensus that updated forecasts should be obtained (i) to confirm that the proposed allocation is on solid footing and (ii) to avoid confusion at public hearings.
3. Reviewed the one-time transition expenses proposed by Messrs. Chittum and Counter. The expenses will provide interim funding for the new regional board until it has its own budget. They include \$69,380 for administrative and legal support, plus \$14,200 for moving and setup, both of which are recommended to be split equally between the two towns and funded by supplemental appropriations. Colebrook will have an additional expense of roughly \$6,000 to shut down its current school. The attached schedule provides detail.
4. The revised projections based on 2014-15 approved budgets are substantially the same as those based on 2013-14 budgets. There was agreement to use these projections as the basis of the committee's report, subject to clarification of the starting year for the new region (2015-16 or 2016-17?). The subcommittee also recommends that the report be formatted to begin with the first year of the new region to keep the presentation as simple as possible.
5. G. Counter moved to approve the minutes to the meeting on September 9, 2014; second, S. Dyer; approved unanimously.
6. No further meetings scheduled at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Millar