

NORFOLK/COLEBROOK SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 15, 2015

7:00 PM Botelle Elementary School

Present: S. Dyer, W. Brodnitzki, M. Sconyers, S. Carr, T. McKeon, S. Gray, H. Carfiro, J. Millar, J. Jones

Absent: J. Hall

Non-voting members: J. Chittum, G. Counter, M. Venhorst , J. Costa

H. Carfiro moved to accept the minutes as presented. T. McKeon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

T. McKeon presented the lease provisions: Rent \$1.00 annually; Initial Term 5 years; Escape Clause by Statute; Liability and Workers Compensation to be carried by Regional Board and carrier to be the same as the Town of Norfolk; there should be a Capital Fund line item in the budget so that money is put aside each year for any capital/major repairs or renovations; a building committee to be appointed by each of the Boards of Selectmen consisting of one member from the Board of Education and two members each from Colebrook and Norfolk. Recommendations from the building committee to be presented and approved by the Regional Board and the Norfolk Board of Selectmen as property owners.

Discussion was held; it was noted that only liability insurance not worker's comp should be in the lease; Town of Norfolk to be named an additional insured on the liability policy as owners of the building; there should be a mechanism in place to resolve a dispute; there should be a monetary value set as to what is considered a capital expense. Suggested that Region 12 lease be referred too for resolving a dispute and capital expense. The lease to be reviewed by the town attorney's. A summary of the lease should be available for when Jonathan Costa and Jeanne Jones visit the State Board of Education on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Changes in the legislation were presented by M. Venhorst. The special act to be presented by the State Department of Education. It was noted that the term be increased to 10 years as presented in the fiscal analysis. This special act addresses the concerns regarding the MBR and the contributions from the towns based on average daily attendance. Discussion held.

M. Sconyers moved to adopt the proposed Special Act with the correction of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2026. J. Millar seconded the motion. The motion carried by S. Dyer, W. Brodnitzki, M. Sconyers, T. McKeon, S. Gray, H. Carfiro and J. Jones. Opposing: S. Carr

Discussion held on the Cross-Over Provisions: there are 5 areas where the cross-over vote would be used. Those provisions are as follows: (1) Lease and Bonding Obligations (2) Capital Expenses (3) Policy (4) Hiring of a Superintendent and Principal (5) Budget Approval

Members of the Regional Board to be elected as school board members are now.

Discussion held on the revised regionalization plan.

Discussion held on framing the plan around the statutory requirements. The plan would not have the education component in it. S. Carr disagreed stating that so much time was spent on the educational part that it should be included. The educational plan is to be included in the appendix; including it in the plan makes the educational plan the rule and if not followed correctly could allow for legal interpretation.

J. Chittum brought up the fact; that a special appropriation would be in order should the plan be passed by each town; to cover the expenses of consolidating the schools. He wanted to make sure that this appropriation did not get lost in any discussion. Both J. Millar and M Sconyers thought that the Boards of Finance could cover that expense either by allocating it themselves if \$20,000 or under or by special vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next meeting is February 19, 2015

Submitted by:

Susan M. Dyer, Secretary  
Norfolk/Colebrook School Study Committee