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Meeting of the School Regionalization Committee Minutes of February 16, 2022

A regular meeting of the School Regionalization Committee (SRC) was held in person at the Plainville Town Hall, at 6:00 PM:

Members in attendance: Bruce Cates
Maggie Clarke
Joanne Sawyer
Reed Webster

Also Present: Linn Caprarella, Chair of The Plainville School Committee

1.0 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

In calling the meeting, to ensure a quorum, there appeared to be confusion regarding committee membership. Mrs. Caprarella mentioned that members of the Plainville School Committee's School Regionalization Sub-Committee, Mrs. Caprarella and Mrs. Sharpe, were also members of the SRC committee.

Reed Webster expressed that he believed the committee members included: Bruce Cates, Maggie Clarke, Joanne Sawyer, Reed Webster, Brian Noble – Town Administrator, Brian Kelly – Chairman of the Select Board, and David Raiche, School Superintendent. It was suggested Mrs. Caprarella, and she agreed, should seek clarification from the Select Board.

2.0 The Minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

3.0 Courtesy Update:

Bruce Cates provided Mrs. Caprarella an overview of the January 19, 2022 SRSC meeting. The update led to a discussion, primarily between Mr. Cates and Mrs. Caprarella, regarding the goals of the committee, impediments to school regionalization, the daunting task regionalization of the schools would be, and the time frame it might take to regionalize the schools.

3.0 DESE Pathways to Regionalization, Phase 1 Document Review

Reed Webster suggested that the committee adopt the ideas and activities in the first 17 pages of the document. He reviewed those activities in a broader presentation of his committee ideas that included formalizing the mission of the committee, adopting the first 17 pages of the DESE document, and developing a roadmap of speakers.

4.0 Discussion: Committee Education and Regionalization Considerations

An open discussion was held among the committee members that included Mrs. Caprarella regarding the goals and tasks of the committee. The discussion also included a citizen attending the meeting.

The discussion primarily centered around the committee's course of action in reaching its mission:

Mrs. Caprarella suggested that the committee's course of action should begin with a meeting that included Jim Hardy, of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

Her suggestion resulted in a healthy debate on how best to proceed:

- Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Meeting
- Following the DESE Pathways to Regionalization; First 17 Pages
- Developing an Itinerary of Speaker Meetings that might include:
 - The Plainville Public Schools
 - Education Industry Organizations
 - The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
 - Other Districts that have Attempted Regionalization; Successful & Unsuccessful
 - Academic Resources

Bruce Cates asked what the mission really is and how would the committee know it reached success.

Maggie Clarke expressed a strong interest in talking with other districts that have attempted or have regionalized.

Joanne Sawyer and Reed Webster sought a better understanding of the business of the schools.

Jim Caprarella, the citizen attending, added to the discussion of special needs programs and suggested clarity might come in using the proper names of school resources in lieu of industry lingo.

The committee members made it clear, that as a committee, they did not feel equipped to have educated and meaningful conversations with industry resources. The committee feels it needs more information on how schools are organized and run to reap the full benefit of industry insight.

Mrs. Caprarella graciously committed to a presentation of how the Plainville Public Schools are organized and how the schools are supported by other organizations/resources for the March 16, 2022 Meeting.

5.0 Adjournment:

At 7:30 PM, the meeting concluded its business, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting on a motion from Maggie Clarke and seconded by Joanne Sawyer.

Future Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Vision of the Overall Process | Three Parts

SRSC Committee

- Sensible Idea | Yes or No? Why?
- Regionalization Types to Explore | Which & Why?
- List of Potential Partners by Type (Above)

Another Committee

- Due Diligence
- Choosing a Partner(s)

Officials | Another Committee

- Agreement(s)
- Execution

Proposed Approach | Format

- Working Committee | White Board Ideas
- DESE Regionalization Phase 1 Document Guidance
- Resource List Presentations
- Summary Documents
- Final Report

DESE Regionalization Phase 1 Document

Limit Activities to Step 1: Preliminary Discuss (pages 1-17)

- Associated Activities

“Uncover the Questions” (Begins Page 2)

Assign Committee Members to Review & Report on the Four Websites

- Management Information for School Committees | masc.org
- Enrollment Projections | massschoolbuildings.org
- Department of Revenue Municipal Databank | mass.gov/dor/localofficials/municipal-data-and-financial-managment//data-bank-reports

Committee Exercise

- D.A.R.T Tool

Discuss and Analyze Five Primary Areas (Begins Page 3)

Develop Questions | Solicit Feedback & Ideas

- Academics
- Quality of Programs & Services
- Technology | DESE Technology Plan
- Physical Plant
- Fiscal Issues | Chapter 70 Information by District

Incentive to Regionalize (Begins Page 6)

Specific to Plainville

Types of Regionalization to Consider (Begins Page 8)

Self-Assessment Tool | District Capacity (Begins Page 12)

In conjunction with the D.A.R.T Tool

Determine Advantages to Regionalization (Begins Page 14)

Specific to Plainville

Determine Challenges to Regionalization (Begins Page 15)
Specific to Plainville

1. Speaker List

- Identify a List of Speakers & Resources
- Establish a Purpose or Goal for Meeting
- Establish a List of Questions for Each Speaker
- Create a Summary Document for Each Meeting