

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
November 22, 2021

- 1) Call to Order The Temporary Regional School District Study Committee meeting held at Goshen Center School and via teleconference was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Tracy.

Members present: Mr. Davenport, Co-Chairman, Mr. Tracy, Co-Chairman, Ms. Hunt, Secretary, Mr. Bergin, Treasurer, Mr. DeLayo, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Weik, Mr. Morosani, and Mrs. Sideris. Also present: Mr. Leone, Superintendent, and Mr. Venhorst, CSDE.

- 2) Approval of Minutes (from November 1, 2021)

Mrs. Sideris made a motion to approve the minutes from November 1, 2021. Mr. Morosani seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

- 3) Public Comment

None

- 4) Committee Update - Superintendent

a) FAQs – Update

Mr. Leone inquired if committee members had comments or suggestions regarding the FAQs they received via email earlier in the week. Given there were no recommended changes, Mr. Leone shared the FAQs will be posted online. As committee work continues to progress, the FAQs will be updated as appropriate.

b) School Debt – Update

Mr. Leone commented a question was raised about the accuracy of the financial data presented at the November 1st committee meeting. Mr. Leone circulated an email from Fran Carpentier, Treasurer from the Town of Litchfield certifying that all data submitted to the committee was accurate.

c) Solar Projects - Update

Mr. Leone commented he heard from SHR Energy (RSD6 Solar Projects) and MEI (Litchfield Solar Projects) and both concur that they see no issue with assignment (or transfer) of current agreements.

d) Region 20 Enrollment Projections – Update

Mr. Leone highlighted the Region 20 Enrollment Projections report from Peter Prowda. To summarize, there is no projected significant enrollment increase over the next ten years for a combined LPS and RSD6 district.

e) Building Appraisals - Update

The building appraisals for all seven buildings are on track to be completed by December 15th. Site visits begin next week and will be conducted off hours as to not interrupt classes.

f) Concept Secondary School – Presentation

Mr. Leone presented the Concept Secondary School presentation outlining current versus potential course offerings, current versus potential staffing, and secondary facilities and capacity. Mr. Leone addressed questions from the committee members. Based on the discussion and presentation it is evident that with regionalization, the two districts can do more and offer better course offerings and programs for the students with financial savings and less resources.

g) 5-Year Region 20 Budget – Presentation

Mr. Leone opened the 5-Year Region 20 Budget presentation by acknowledging this concept budget is based on a moment in time. A Region 20 budget would go into effect seven years from now and there are many variables such as enrollment, health insurance costs, state funding changes that will influence the budget planning. Highlights of the budget presentation detailed projected year one revenue, expenses and savings by Budget Category, such as Certified Salaries, Classified Salaries, and Benefits. Also included in the budget was projected revenue and expense for years two through five.

5) Discussion and Action Items

Mr. Leone commented the goal of this portion of the meeting is to review the Workgroup on Collaboration recommendations and determine if the committee has agreement, would like to modify, or if a section will need a complete rewrite. Mr. Leone continued by saying in the next month or two the committee will need to produce their report and reviewing the previous recommendations can provide a basis for moving forward.

Mr. Tracy added that even if the committee has tentative agreement with a section, it doesn't mean the committee cannot make changes or modifications in the future to that section.

a) Program Findings

Mr. Leone provided highlights from the *Program Findings* section. Discussion ensued detailing specific wording, sections, and areas to highlight. It was noted if the committee can agree conceptually, then when it is time to write the report, the committee can reformat and comment on areas of importance.

Mrs. Sideris made a motion to accept the Workgroup on Collaboration Program Findings recommendation as written. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion.

During discussion, Ms. Hunt questioned the "as written" motion with a concern that it does not allow the committee to modify content.

Mrs. Sideris rescinded her motion.

Mrs. Sideris then made a motion to tentatively accept the Workgroup on Collaboration Program Findings recommendation as written. Mr. Bergin seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

b) District Configuration

Mr. Leone read the Workgroup on Collaboration recommendation on *District Configuration*.

Mr. Morosani made a motion to tentatively accept the Workgroup on Collaboration *District Configuration* recommendation. Mr. Bergin seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Bergin questioned if Litchfield under District Configuration could state K-5 rather than the breakdown of K-3 at Litchfield Center School (LCS) and 4-5 Litchfield Intermediate School (LIS). Mr. Leone then explained from prior meetings, maintaining the K-3 LCS and 4-5 LIS schools was of critical importance to many parents from the prior Workgroup on Collaboration meetings/discussions. Ms. Hunt then posed a question to Mr. Venhorst could the committee recommend the Litchfield grade configuration K-3 and 4-5 but not tie it to a building as Warren, Morris and Goshen K-5 are not tied to buildings. Mr. Leone commented the building piece is addressed in a bracket (use of school facilities is detailed further below).

Mrs. Sideris made a motion to call the question. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tracy restated the original motion made by Mr. Morosani to tentatively accept the Workgroup on Collaboration *District Configuration* recommendation. Mr. Bergin seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

c) Board of Education – Structure

The committee members agreed to table the *Board of Education – Structure* discussion until the next meeting.

d) Board of Education – Control and Voting

The committee members agreed to table the *Board of Education – Control and Voting* discussion until the next meeting.

e) Education and Curriculum

Mr. Leone read the Workgroup on Collaboration recommendation on *Education and Curriculum*. Discussion ensued. Mr. Leone addressed questions of the committee members.

Ms. Hunt made a motion to tentatively approve the Workgroup on Collaboration *Education and Curriculum* recommendation. Mrs. Weik seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

f) Financial

Mr. Morosani made a motion to tentatively approve the Workgroup on Collaboration *Financial* recommendation. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

Mr. Leone read the Workgroup on Collaboration recommendation on *Financial*. Discussion ensued. Mr. Leone addressed questions of the committee members.

Mr. Tracy called for a vote on the motion to tentatively approve the Workgroup on Collaboration *Financial* recommendation. The motion passes unanimously.

g) Facilities and Capital

Mr. Davenport made a motion to tentatively approve the Workgroup on Collaboration *Facilities and Capital* recommendation. Mrs. Sideris seconded the motion.

Mr. Leone read the Workgroup on Collaboration recommendation on *Facilities and Capital*. Discussion ensued. Mr. Leone addressed questions of the committee members.

Mr. Tracy called for a vote on the motion to tentatively approve the Workgroup on Collaboration *Facilities and Capital*. The motion passes unanimously.

h) Culture, Identify, and History

Mr. Leone read the Workgroup on Collaboration recommendation on *Culture, Identify, and History*.

Mrs. Sideris made a motion to tentatively approve the Workgroup on Collaboration *Culture, Identity, and History* recommendation. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

i) Staffing Organization

Ms. Hunt made a motion to tentatively approve the Workgroup on Collaboration *Staffing Organization* recommendation. Mrs. Sideris seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Leone commented input from the five current unions (AFSCME, LEA, LAA, WEA, WAA) was represented in the Workgroup on Collaboration staffing recommendations and the formation of a new Region 20 would bargain in good faith with the union leadership.

The committee agreed to table discussion regarding the chart on page 7 (local assessments for school buildings and debt for buildings and districts) until the next meeting.

6) Next Meeting Date

The Temporary Regional School District Study Committee will next meet on Wednesday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Center School.

7) Adjournment There being no further business to come before this committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem