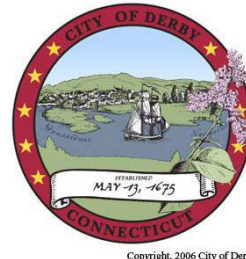


Joseph Jaumann
(Co Chair)
Steven Adamowski
(Treasurer)
Christopher Phipps
Rich Bshara
Joshua Shuart



Jim Gildea (Co Chair)
George Kurtyka
(Secretary)
Barbara DeGennaro
Tara Hyder
Ronald Luneau, Jr

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ANSONIA DERBY TEMPORARY REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

Monday, January 27, 2020
Derby Middle School

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Prior to roll call Mr. Gildea introduced new members Rich Bshara and Joshua Shuart.

Roll Call

Ansonia members:

Steven Adamowski – Treasurer-	present
Joseph Jaumann	present
Christopher Phipps	present
Rich Bshara	present
Joshua Shuart	present

Derby Members:

Jim Gildea - Co Chair	present
George Kurtyka – Secretary	present
Tara Hyder	present
Ronald Luneau, Jr	excused
Barbara DeGennaro	arrived at 7:08 pm

Also Present:

Dr. Matthew Conway – Derby Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Joseph DiBacco – Ansonia Superintendent of Schools
John DiCarlo, NVCOG Director of Municipal Shared Services

Public Portion

No one came forward and public portion was closed.

TRSSC Legislative Status

The Derby Board of Alderman and Alderwoman has voted to extend the committee until February 6, 2022.

The Ansonia Board of Alderman has voted to extend the committee for two more years.

Approval of minutes

Motion by Joseph Jaumann and seconded by Steven Adamowski. Move to approve the minutes of November 25, 2019, as written. Motion carried with Rich Bshara and Joshua Shuart abstaining.

Motion by George Kurtyka and seconded by Christopher Phipps. Move to approve the minutes of December 9, 2019, as written. Motion carried with Rich Bshara and Joshua Shuart abstaining.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Adamowski advised that all previously approved invoices have been paid. He mentioned the invoice that was tabled at the last meeting. Members discussed what has been paid to date and what is remaining. An invoice to District Management Group (DMG) for phases 1.4 to 1.8 in the amount of \$23,100.00 was tabled last month. Members determined that additional materials were needed from the consultant to satisfy the members understanding of that phase of the contract. It was determined that a partial payment of \$13,600 was agreeable and the remaining \$9,500 would remain open until the work is complete.

Motion by Steven Adamowski and seconded by Christopher Phipps. Move partial payment of the invoice in the amount of \$13,600 to District Management Group. Motion carried unanimously.

2020 Annual Meeting Schedule

Members reviewed their calendars to determine availability. After discussion it was decided to maintain the approved dates with the change that the first Wednesday meeting would start at 7:30 PM and the fourth Monday would be at 7:00 PM. One exception is November 4th and it was agreed to move that date to November 5th. The locations will alternate between Ansonia and Derby.

First Wednesday (unless stated) At 7:30 PM	Fourth Monday (unless stated) At 7:00 PM
February 5, 2020	February 24, 2020
March 4, 2020	March 23, 2020
April 1, 2020	April 27, 2020
May 6, 2020	May , 2020 (TBD)
June 3, 2020	June 22, 2020
July 1, 2020	July 27, 2020
August 5, 2020	August 24, 2020
September 2, 2020	September 28, 2020
October 7, 2020	October 26, 2020
November 5, 2020 <u>Thursday</u>	November 23 , 2020
December 2, 2020	December 28 , 2020

Motion by Joseph Jaumann and seconded by George Kurtyka. Move to adopt the 2020 meeting schedule, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Review section 1 Regionalization in Connecticut, Consultant's Report

Members suggested developing the plan of academics and programming to determine what level of regionalization would likely serve the preferred model that would be formulated during the discussion.

Review section 2 Academics and Programming, Consultant's Report

Members discussed the unique programs and curriculum in each city. Derby has recently developed an enrichment program (LEAP) for gifted and talented students in the elementary and middle schools. Ansonia and Derby curriculum have different offerings. Members discussed how courses could merge and how would that impact the staffing needs. Further, the two cities would have to review and determine the requirements for graduation. The total numbers of credits, the years of a certain course, etc. would have to be reviewed to make certain that it is attainable and that college entry requirements are met. Further, will regionalization not only address the necessity of need but will it also extend to enrich the overall educational experience. The desired goal is not simply studying the financial benefits but also the impacts on the quality of education. Members felt that the consultants may be able to offer a vision of a merged curriculum. They may provide models from other districts with similar characteristics to Derby and Ansonia. Mr. Gildea asked the two superintendents if it would be possible to present their vision of the curriculum over the next five years. The pathways to graduation should be clarified to determine if the structure not only provides advancement to college but also to other career opportunities and does it offer a diverse level of study. Looking at the central offices and the potential merge, that administrative structure was discussed. Administrative positions and specific directors are different in each of the cities.

Members weighed how the committee should move forward on defining the curriculum model verses how much would fall upon the new regional district if it was formed. It was discussed how much the committee should define so as to present a clearer picture when this would be presented for referendum. Members questioned if the potential cost projections are taking into account the merged curriculum and the impacts on staffing or are the numbers and costs simply reflective of the existing costs. Will there be expanded access to broader curriculum or will there be limited access and limited space resulting in a more confined result. It also seems that the mental health and stress of a merger is being understated. Students and staff would be entering a vastly different experience. It was noted that if the referendum did pass, it will then take possibly two years prior to the implementation. A point was raised as to the high suspension rate that was identified and it was suggested that during this process the issue should be studied so as to determine the appropriate direction to reduce or manage this rate.

Point of Good Order and Public Portion

Nothing was presented.

Adjourn

Motion by Joshua Shuart and seconded by George Kurtyka. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted;
Karen Kemmesies