



**TEMPORARY REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE CITY OF ANSONIA  
AND  
THE CITY OF DERBY**



**MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 – Derby Middle School

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Co-Chair Jim Gildea. All those present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

<b>Derby members:</b>		<b>Ansonia members:</b>	
Jim Gildea, Co-Chair	Present	Joe Jaumann, Co-Chair	Present
Barbara DeGennaro	Present	Dr. Steve Adamowski	Present
Tara Hyder	Present	Rich Bshara	Present
George Kurtyka	Present	Christopher Phipps	Absent
Ron Luneau	Absent	Dr. Joshua Stuart	Present

**Public Session**

No members of the public addressed the Committee this evening.

**Treasurer's Report**

Dr. Adamowski presented the Treasurer's Report.

There are no expenditures other than a bill for transcription of minutes for February. The \$36,000 payment is before the Committee for approval tonight. If approved, we will authorize payment.

Dr. Stuart MOVED to TABLE consideration of the \$36,000 invoice from DMG for Task 2 until after Mr. Dunne's presentation; Seconded by Mr. Jaumann. Motion carried unanimously.

**Annual Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Luneau has requested a change in the meeting schedule as he teaches on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The Committee members discussed their various schedules. Mr. Gildea

Jim Gildea, Co-Chair  
Joe Jaumann, Co-Chair  
Dr. Steven Adamowski, Treasurer  
George Kurtyka, Secretary

Rich Bshara  
Barbara DeGennaro  
Tara Hyder

Ronald Luneau, Jr.  
Chris Phipps  
Joshua Stuart

will send out a survey to the members and try to sort out a change in the schedule.

Ms. Hyder MOVED to TABLE; Seconded by Dr. Shuart. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Grant Expenditures Deliverables – Rick Dunne, NVCOG**

Mr. Dunne explained that NVCOG is the fiduciary for this grant and pays the bills. This contract is closing in on less than 20 percent remaining of the original \$137,000. We looked at the deliverables and compared them against the invoices totaling \$126,600, as presented.

The contract enumerates the deliverables – the items that a) must be in the report to the State Board of Education, and b) that the Committee must have in its report in order to go to referendum.

A comparison between the contract deliverables and the Phase 1 report shows a number of deliverable items are missing. The contract corresponds almost exactly to the statutory requirements.

Mr. Dunne reviewed each of the items, and pointed out the following:

- Item 3 “the grade levels for which educational programs are to be provided,” is not in the report.
- Item 4 “detailed educational and budget plans for at least a five-year period including projections of enrollment, staff needs and deployment and a description of all programs and supportive services planned for the proposed regional school district,” is not in the report. There were no details, but generalizations. This would not be sufficient for referendum.
- Item 5 “the facilities recommended,” is there, but loosely.
- Item 7 “a recommendation concerning the equalization of assets and investments as may be required for use by the proposed regional school district, and provide assistance for the process that the committee recommends,” this is not in the report, and is most concerning to Mr. Dunne. This requires that they identify a capital cost plan for the cities. The word “equalization” is in the contract; it is not in the statute. It means there are two figures involved. One is, what is the equalization of current investment in the facilities that the cities already own and are combining. The other is equalization of capital costs going forward to construct whatever facilities are required.

Mr. Dunne explained that he cannot pay bills against items that don’t appear to be present in the report.

He noted there are invoices of \$23,100 representing work to be performed on Task 1 that they say has been performed. Part of that was \$9,600 that was backed out. The \$13,000 was approved. Then there is an additional invoice of \$36,000 for Task 2, which the Committee has not yet reviewed. They have been paid \$67,500 to date.

Mr. Dunne explained that he has no problem paying Task 2, and a percentage of Task 1. He is not comfortable leaving only 10-12 percent of the balance of the contract on the table and accepting the Phase 1 report that is marked as "final."

The Committee discussed at length its feelings on the content of the report and the presence (or lack thereof) of the four components of the report listed above. The consensus was that the report lacks specificity in these areas.

The Committee again reviewed the invoices. It was the consensus that DMG delivered a report marked "final," and they don't intend to deliver any more work regarding Task 1. They believe this work is complete. The Committee needs a complete report in order to commence with their decision-making processes. Mr. Dunne will be speaking with DMG by phone tomorrow.

**Dr. Shuart MOVED to hold back the payment of \$23,100 to DMG until the report on Task 1 is considered completed by this Committee; SECONDED by Mr. Jaumann.**

Mr. Dunne will encourage DMG to consult with the Committee on how to complete Task 1. An important point is whether each community will retain ownership of its buildings and lease the schools to the district. And while the district can lease the buildings, knowing the cost of the buildings that are going to be leased, and equalizing the value of the assets going in is important. The Committee wishes to explain to them their concerns about programming, curriculum and capital costs. They want DMG to complete #7.

The Committee discussed various scenarios on ways of equalizing assets. Once this Committee makes its decisions, DMG is to prepare the report for submission to the State Board of Education.

It is the consensus of the Committee that DMG presented their invoice for all of Task 1 last November, and in their minds it's not complete. The Committee would like DMG to appear at it's next meeting to clarify the questions regarding the report and complete Task 1 in a satisfactory manner. The Committee needs to make some decisions that will enable the consultant to complete the report as well.

**The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

#### **Treasurer's Report – Consideration of Invoice for \$35,000 for Task 2**

**Mr. Jaumann MOVED to table consideration of the invoice for Task 2 to the next meeting, pending the Committee's review; SECONDED by Dr. Adamowski. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Review Section 3 Facilities, Consultant's Report**

The consensus of the Committee is to request DMG, its subcontractors, and Mr. Dunne to attend the next meeting (Monday, March 23, 7 p.m., Derby Middle School) to discuss the capital costs, the equalization, have answers to all five possibilities, etc. The Committee should take the next two weeks to reread and review the Facilities report and prepare their questions.

The Committee is not willing to make the decision between shared services or a complete regionalization until such time as it has all the information on every aspect. It cannot rely on fair market value guesses; if Milone and McBroom have data to substantiate the numbers, that is information the Committee needs to know. It cannot rely on estimates; how did they arrive at those numbers – were there appraisals done. The Committee needs to better understand what Code violations were versus site improvements versus future improvements. Another concern is that the 10-page report for Task 2 is extremely general. In the ways there are generalizations in Task 1, there are equal generalizations in Task 2.

It is important that all the Committee members are prepared to ask all the questions they have so that decisions can be made at the next meeting.

#### **Point of Good Order**

Again, Mr. Gildea will reach out to the Committee members regarding the meeting schedule.

#### **Public Session**

No members of the public wished to speak.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Kurtyka MOVED to adjourn, Seconded by Mr. Jaumann. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Trish Bruder*

Patricia M. Bruder  
Secretary