



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



MINUTES  
Monday, July 27, 2020 – 7 p.m.  
ZOOM virtual conferencing platform via the Internet

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Co-Chair Jim Gildea. All those present 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     | Absent  |
| Tara Hyder            | Present | Rich Bshara             | Present |
| George Kurtyka        | Present | Christopher Phipps      | Absent  |
| Ron Luneau            | Present | Dr. Joshua Stuart       | Present |

NVCOG Staff John DiCarlo was present.  
Dr. Conway, Derby Public Schools and Dr. DiBacco, Ansonia Public Schools were present.

**Public Session**

Mr. Gildea asked three times if any member of the public wished to speak. There being none, he declared the public session closed.

**Approval of Minutes – July 1, 2020**

Dr. Stuart MOVED to approve the minutes of July 1, 2020; SECONDED by Mr. Jaumann. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Mr. Gildea reported there are no new invoices at this time.

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

Rich Bshara  
Barbara DeGennaro  
Tara Hyder

Ronald Luneau,  
Chris Phipps  
Joshua Stuart

### **Facility Review with DMG and SPA. Discussion/Possible action**

We met and worked through the equalization document. When you get to question 4, it was to determine how much work was going to be done at the schools. With that, and prior to last meeting, everyone had gotten as a refresher the Excel spreadsheets that documented the work. One of my core questions was, how much of that work was code violations, designated as 1s; how much work was ADA violations, designated as 2s; then there was a varying degree of maintenance and/or cosmetic issues that slid in there as a 3 or a 4. We were to look at those documents and decide the level of work. We designated tonight to finish that facility work so we could punch in those numbers in the equalization document, certainly figures that DMG will need.

The Commission discussed when the code violations would be addressed, either each town addressing them before the regionalization, or the regionalized school district addressing them after it is formed.

Mr. Jaumann felt that if we're trying to do it as a regionalized district, it changes the reimbursement rate and changes the level of incentives that the State may give us to upgrade these facilities. Doing it as individual communities changes the equation as opposed to trying to do it together. We want to know the differences between the two.

Ms. Hyder felt that regardless of when it is done, the money comes from the two towns anyway, so it's either prior to or after, but it sounds like it is through the regional board. Otherwise the city would not do this work.

Mr. Gildea thought it would be done as a regionalized school district. The parents of both towns would want the code violations addressed. From that perspective we would want to do this as a regionalized school district. It starts with question #4; what level of work we are going to do. I personally thought there was a little more work we should do than just the 1s.

Mr. Jaumann agreed.

Ms. Carpenter explained, how the cost of renovations including code violations are assigned across Ansonia and Derby in a lease is determined by the lease agreement. The lease may say we will address all of these in an equalized way after the regional district leases the building [inaudible] distributed based on per pupil cost. It has the flexibility based on the lease.

Mr. Gildea stated, it all starts with identifying what needs to be done. They discussed some of the number 2s that need to be done in all the schools as they are ADA and/or health and safety issues. Derby submitted a specific review. Mr. Jaumann will consult with Ansonia's Facilities Committee to come up with a list of recommended work.

### **Equalization amongst towns – Discussion/Possible action**

Mr. Gildea stated, the lists from each town will be submitted to Simone and Michelle to condense into a spreadsheet of "recommended work" and the costs. That will become the answer to question 4 and we'll work to finalize the equalization document.

Ms. Carpenter stated, then we will take that list of recommended work with costs and show how that would break down on a per pupil basis by city in an equalized way, similar to what they did with the code violations – the 1s. Or, if each city just takes full ownership over their buildings. She will submit the numbers both ways.

Mr. Gildea stated that he liked the format that was presented by DMG on page 9. Ms. Carpenter agreed to do that.

In response to a question from Dr. Shuart, Mr. Gildea explained that in DMGs opinion, the 1s had to be done because they are building code violations. Their second thought was the 2s were ADA violations. It was possible that you could not do the ADA violations, but it is also possible that once you get in the middle of it the town would make you do them. The Derby members feel that they should address the ADA violations. There were a few 3s that were not code violations, but they were safety violations. If you're going through the effort of regionalizing the schools and that's your one chance to save some money, we should be doing the significant maintenance issues.

#### **TRSSC Next Steps – Discussion/Possible action**

On August 5<sup>th</sup> the group will start having the programming discussion with DMG.

Ms. Carpenter stated, we will send you the High School Program of Study by Monday morning. We want Dr. DiBacco and Dr. Conway to review it first.

Mr. Gildea feels the group is making great progress and getting much closer on equalization. The next 30-45 days is finishing the equalization, talking about program of studies, and hopefully we're on track for September to start talking government.

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

#### **Public Session**

Mr. Gildea asked three times if any member of the public wished to speak. There being none, he declared the public session closed.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Kurtyka MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Ms. DeGennaro. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Trish Bruder*

Patricia M. Bruder  
Secretary