



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



MINUTES
Monday, October 26, 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:

Derby members:		Ansonia members:	
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	present
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 – September 28, 2020

Mr. Jaumann MOVED to approve the minutes of September 28, 2020; SECONDED by Mr. Bshara. Motion carried unanimously.

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

November 4 Meeting Conflict – Discussion/Possible Action

Due to Election Day, the next meeting will be held Monday, November 23.

Treasurer’s Report – Discussion/Possible Action

Dr. Adamowski is not present – no report.

Review Task 1 and Review Task 2 Open Invoices – Discussion/Possible Action

Task 1 was for a total of \$77,000. To date we have paid \$64,450 leaving a balance due of \$11,550. Task 2 was for a total of \$36,000. To date we have paid \$18,000 with a balance due of \$18,000.

John DiCarlo reviewed the Task 1 billing deliverables that DMG has provided and explained that DMG meets the deliverables outlined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-43, 39-43 which govern this process. They do not yet meet same on the Task 2 billing. Mr. Gildea and Mr. Jaumann agreed, noting that further discussion will be required on how they arrived at some of the economies of scale savings. Mr. Gildea noted that there is a pool of \$24,000 remaining for the workshops and facilitation of those, which the Committee has not yet begun.

Dr. Shuart MOVED to pay the remaining \$11,550 of Task 1; and \$9,000 of Task 2; for a total payment of \$20,550; SECONDED by Mr. Kurtyka. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance and Equalization amongst towns – Discussion/Possible Action

Mr. Gildea noted that the Committee has already voted to take the 9-12 regionalization model off the table, recognizing that it did not meet the educational needs of both communities.

The 6-12 regionalization option would have a total approximate operational savings of \$2.1 million. The Pre-K through 12 regionalization with 4 elementary schools (PK-12 (4)) would potentially save operational savings of about \$2.5 million. The Pre-K through 12 regionalization with 3 elementary schools (PK-12 (3)) would potentially save about \$2.9 million.

They used the Derby salary structure that was higher, the Ansonia benefits cost which were more comprehensive to arrive at their figures.

Mr. Jaumann noted that if anyone feels there is additional information that they need to arrive at some of these decisions, or if they need anything clarified, Simone Carpenter can provide clarification.

Mr. Gildea reiterated that the Committee has eliminated the 9-12 scenario. The 6-12 scenario really depends on whether the buildings are contributed or leased. The Committee has centered in on the lease option. PK-12 (4) would have a cost of approximately \$19.5 million - \$12.4 to Ansonia and \$7.1 to Derby. The PK-12 (3) option would cost approximately \$17 million – Ansonia’s cost of \$10.8 and Derby’s of \$6.1 million.

He explained that in DMG's report, a 9-12 regionalized school district was not recommended as the scenario has limited savings and would create additional complexity with a third Board of Education. They did not recommend a 6-12 regionalized school district because this option offers the least operational savings and would create the additional complexity of a third Board of Education. DMG has recommended that the TRSSC consider the PK-12 (4) regionalized school district option – the high school would have more access to high school classes, oversight is simpler with one Board and one Central Office and there are no elementary closures. They also recommend consideration of a PK-12 (3) regionalized school district because high school students would have more access to the high school classes, oversight is simpler with one Board, one Central Office, and financial savings are the greatest of all the scenarios.

Mr. Phipps MOVED to eliminate the 6-12 regionalization model; SECONDED by Mr. Luneau. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gildea will send out the Ansonia-Derby Demographic Study as well as the Task 1 enrollment projections report - pages 42 through 55 - for the Committee to review prior to the next meeting. DMG needs to provide the additional cost numbers regarding Bradley School to house PK and the regional High School to house the manufacturing and Raise programs. He encouraged the Committee members to contact him or Mr. Jaumann with any information that they feel they need between now and the next meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Bshara, Mr. Gildea explained that the majority of operational savings in the PK-12(3) scenario comes from the assumption that a regional district will merge central offices, all teachers would shift to Derby's pay scale, health and dental. That is where they arrived at the operational costs. While the Committee had discussed putting the savings back into the district for educational opportunities, it will ultimately be the decision of the next Committee – the Regional School District. Mr. Jaumann added, the State Board of Education will set the MBR (minimum budget requirement) after discussions with both communities and the newly-elected Regional Board. They can be merged and you can have a similar or comparable MBR, or it can be adjusted accordingly based on the district's needs. For budgeting purposes, you would set that MBR to go forward. Once the regional Board of Education is elected, that starts the clock on some of the timelines; that's when the State works with them to set the MBR.

The Committee members continued to discuss the MBR and how it could be arrived at, as well as how teacher wages and benefits may be decided upon. Mr. Jaumann explained that because Derby has the higher minimum rate, that is the contract that is assumed in the regional district as the minimum rate.

TRSSC Next Steps – Discussion / Possible Action

Mr. Gildea will get the data out to everybody for review prior to the next meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, November 23.

Point of Good Order

None presented.

Public Session

None presented.

Adjournment

Mr. Kurtyka MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Dr. Shuart. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Bruder

Patricia M. Bruder
Secretary