

Rehoboth K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 14 April 2022

Meeting Location: Francis Farm, Arcade Bldg.

Members of Committee:

Mike McBride (MM) (Chair)
Jay Crandall (JC) (Vice Chair)
Tim Maynard (TM) (Secretary)
Sue Ohsberg (SO)
Kelly Doran (KD)

In Attendance:

Present
Present
Present
Absent
Absent

Official Observers:

None

Old Business:

Mike made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of 28 March 2022.
The motion was seconded by Tim and was approved unanimously.

New Business:

Mike updated the committee on the progress of the development of our web presence. He discussed, in general terms, what approaches we should take in our efforts at communication with the public. He talked about the format of the web site and the area to be developed that would provide the public with the opportunity to submit questions to the committee. Some discussion ensued and it was suggested that to keep the questions on track and avoid rambling dissertations we should limit the number of characters in the submission.

Mike explained that George Solas would be presenting the web site to the Board of Selectmen at the next Tuesday meeting to get it linked to the town web site. He further explained that all changes/additions to the web site will have to be approved by the B.O.S.

Mike explained that our number one committee priority has to be to support the provision of reliable, relevant information relative to the warrant item on the K through 8 withdrawal in August.

Jay indicated that we should make it clear that, in previous years, the RAAC spent up to two years trying to iron out funding issues between Dighton and Rehoboth. This was to no avail because the two towns could not agree on several issues.

Tim suggested that we have to communicate in a bulleted fashion so we do not turn people off to the message. When a message is a sea of numbers, some people just tune it out and others prefer a sea of numbers. By communicating in a series of short messages that are to the point, we have a better chance of holding the person's attention.

The discussion moved on to funding issues. The consensus of the members was that given the definitions and rules set down by D.E.S.E. the new school department (if the warrant is approved) would be a department within the Town of Rehoboth. Given that the other departments within the town are run on the basis of zero base budgeting, it was anticipated that the new school department would also be budgeted this way. The old system that the regional school district used of carrying over line items that were funded but not spent each year in order to build up a surplus would not be used.

Jay suggested that we could start public meetings in June. This would encourage community interaction and give the public a chance at providing input to the committee and enable the committee to provide information to the public.

Mike provided some explanations about state fiscal definitions. In particular, he explained RMC (required minimum contribution), MFC (Municipal Fiscal Capacity), a municipality's ability to pay the RMC, and the determinant of MFC which is composed of EQV (property values) and Personal income (determined by the state tax roles). Further discussion ensued as to how this does not truthfully represent the ability of a town to pay a calculated RMC.

Motion:

Move to adjourn
(at 11:27 am)

Presented By:

Mike McBride

2nd:

Tim Maynard

Vote:

passed unanimously