

HEART COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of January 31, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Michele Giarusso, Chair
Tracy Rogers, Secretary
Cheryl George

Tony Matteo
Sue O'Reilly McRae
Jean Page

Ginger Robinson
Bill Wahlstrom

Others Present:

Jenny Ladd, facilitator; Willie Morales, Northfield town administrator

Committee Members Absent:

Joe Arsenault, Alan Genovese, Bob Keir

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes

Tony made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2018 meeting as written. Jean seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Updates

Richard Fontaine resigned due to work commitments. Michele asked him to write to the Leyden Selectboard to ask for a replacement.

Members presented the edited District Agreement at last week's School Committee meeting. The Committee had no questions, but they hadn't had time to review the document yet. The superintendent sent a letter to the four selectboards asking to push out the budget hearing deadline.

Sue, Ginger, and Michele attended the Gill-Montague Civic Leaders meeting last night. They had a working group dig into the Chapter 70 formula.

Sue presented an email from Michael Buoniconti stating that the MA Rural Schools Coalition directed its chair, Mr. Buoniconti, to work with Senator Rosenberg to change the formula for state aid based on population. That change would not benefit Pioneer or several other western MA districts. This should be an item on the agenda for the March 24th event with Rep. Mark.

Upcoming Events

Update on RFP: Willie explained the procurement process. The HEART Committee will review non-price proposals, then Willie will look at price proposals and make a recommendation.

Willie asked for feedback on the RFP before issuing it. The Committee asked him to change "Attend at least six meetings of the HEART Committee" to "Attend a reasonable number of meetings of the HEART Committee." And to add the statement that the price proposal should "not exceed the grant appropriation."

Tony made a motion that we have Mr. Morales put the RFP out post haste as amended. Cheryl seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.