

HEART Committee Meeting Minutes 6/13/18 respectfully submitted by Jean Page

Members present: Cheryl George, Bob Keir, Sue O'Reilly McRae, Jess Marshall, Jean Page, Ginger Robinson

Members absent: Julia Blyth, Alan Genovese, Michele Giarusso, Tony Matteo, Bill Wahlstrom

Others present: Steve Hemman, assistant director of the MARS group (Mass. Assoc. of Regional Schools), Mark Abrahams, CPA (experienced advisor to schools regarding finance); Tanya Gaylord (current treasurer of the PVRSD)

Meeting called to order @ 6:38 by Ginger Robinson

Minutes of 5/30/18 mtg deferred until next mtg, in order to maximize our discussion time with Mr.'s Hemman and Abrahams.

Updates:

Northfield's interim Town Manager is writing up a contract which will enable HEART to proceed with working with Steve Hemmans and Mark Abrahams. We have been advised to pare town our scope of services, and Steve and Mark pointed out that we should not overlap significantly with the Gill Montague study's scope of services.

A PVRSD budget meeting on 6/12 concluded that nearly \$300K must still be cut, and the administration / committee is struggling to find more ways to cut which are feasible. Tanya Gaylord explained that the #'s are still a work in progress, citing the example of payments for insurance. Steve briefly reviewed info regarding school choice budget specifics.

Mark and Steve state that they anticipated getting a Gill-Montague study report the following day, to include data about GM, Tech, and PVRSD, pertaining to enrollment, school choice, and charter schools. Also included will be sharing of staff.

Our own needs regarding data include update of District Agreement (the main reason our committee was formed), solid info about school closing (s), transportation costs, administrative structure, collaboration and shared services. Mark and Steve acknowledged that we need answers/guidance asap due to the current fiscal crisis. Other random comments included: with a deficit spending bond, the state's overseer controls spending. A stabilization reserve fund (different from the stabilization fund) is created, "sitting there in case it is needed". In the past 9 years, PVRSD has experienced a 23% decline in enrollment. We need to survey the community to learn what could be done to get students who have choiced out, to come back. Transportation costs severely impacted the 2018 budget. Fiscal '19 budget shortfall is estimated to be \$285K, but Tanya stated that a more realistic figure could be about \$130K.

Our scope of services for our Community Compact grant study was pared down to four categories: a. revision of District agreement, b. analysis of school closing(s) (where will students go? impact on school choice students), c. models of administrative structure, and, d. collaboration with Gill-Montague.

Motion to adjourn, Ginger, 2nd Jean, 9:13 p.m. Next mtg 6/27/2018.