

HEART COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of April 12, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Michele Giarusso, Chair
Tracy Rogers, Secretary
Joseph Arseneault
Lisa Armstrong
Jen Comiskey
Sharon Fontaine

Richard Fontaine
Alan Genovese
Cheryl George
Lynn Hansell
Bob Keir
Renee Keir

Jack Killeen
Tony Matteo
Sue O'Reilly McRae
Ginger Robinson
Bill Wahlstrom

Committee Members Absent:

Claire Brennan, Dawn Magi, Ruth Miller

Others Present:

Debbie Lynangale, facilitator; Shelby Ashline, The Recorder.

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Michele announced that Dawn Magi, Warwick Selectboard representative, has resigned due to other time commitments. Warwick will work to appoint someone to fill her seat.

Michele reported that she sent a letter to Representative Mark asking for \$20,000 to be added to the State budget for HEART to continue its work. Tracy will ask the Franklin Regional Council of Governments about the possibility of accessing Community Compact funds as well.

Purpose Statement

The Committee wordsmithed a purpose statement, which Alan volunteered to continue working on. The draft statement is as follows:

The HEART Committee (Honest Education and Retaining Trust) serves as a bridge between the communities, towns and schools of the Pioneer Valley Regional School District, with the goal of making recommendations and supporting changes that maintain or improve on the current high quality of education and promote sustainability and affordability in educational services. These recommendations and changes may include, but are not limited to, the provisions of the District Agreement. The HEART Committee is committed to effective outreach and communication with all key stakeholders, to supporting but not supplanting the work of existing entities, and to openly exploring creative options, including those which address efficiency and economies of scale. The HEART Committee also anticipates serving an advocacy role in supporting regional and state-wide efforts to increase revenues and manage the growing costs of providing educational services.

Brainstorming Session

Committee members were asked to share their thoughts on the following subjects.

What will be the Outcomes, Products, and Timeline of the Committee's Work?

- A report with recommendations for concrete, actionable change to present to the towns and/or School Committee before next year's town meetings

What are the Committee's Tasks?

- Get HEART functioning well
 - Subcommittees carrying out action steps so the larger committee can make decisions
- Determine what data we need and gather it, both from the schools and from the towns
- Review, analysis, discussion of the data
- Come up with options/proposals
- Conduct outreach/feedback, hold community meetings
- Make decisions
- Produce a product

Members then broke into smaller groups and discussed

- What messages about the HEART Committee need to get out at this time?
- How will we get the messages out (using what kind of technology)?
- How will we coordinate getting the messages out?
- What data do we need?

Minutes

Bob moved to approve minutes from the March 29, 2017 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Sharon and carried by a unanimous vote.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 26, 6:30 p.m. at the Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church St.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rogers*