

HEART Committee Minutes 5/22/2019

Members in attendance: Julia Blyth, Alan Genovese, Cheryl George, Michele Giarusso, Bob Keir, Tony Matteo, Sue O'Reilly-McRae, Jean Page, Shalee Pratt, Ginger Robinson, Tom Wyatt
Member absent: Jess Marshall

Others attending: Max Marcus, Recorder reporter; Kristen Gonzalez, school comm. chair
Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Update on district agreement: Sue stated that Jess had reported that the district agreement subcommittee had met twice and were making some revisions. These include (but are not limited to) eliminating the creation of an ad hoc committee to participate in school closure. Kristen Gonzalez explained that the proposal is to change it from ad hoc to a subcommittee of the school committee. Other changes in process are to eliminate the addition of a 13th school committee member, and to change the capital expenditures figure from \$10k to \$5k.

We had a brief discussion about the concept of collaborating with Gill-Montague. It was agreed that the school committee needs to be updated on the whole idea, by the consultants, in order to gain a clearer understanding of what is involved and what benefits might be gained by joining forces, with the goal of excellent education and fiscal sustainability for the six towns involved.

Regarding the lack of a report on the choice- out students, a report is not forthcoming, because of the very low number of responses by families of those students. Only 14 responses were received, which is inadequate in terms of any concrete, useful information. Reportedly, the district administrator did not feel further efforts should be devoted to data gathering.

In terms of not funding the superintendent's salary, the Commission of Education stated that the contract is signed and legal. Also, the town attorney for Bernardston states that we cannot NOT vote to pay the supt. salary.

A HEART Committee report is due to the State and to the four selectboards. Our subcommittee for this is Michele, Julia, Alan, Ginger, and Bob. It will include minutes of the Bernardston selectboard's meeting at which the formation of the HEART Committee was decided upon. We will continue as a committee until the reports are finalized and accepted.

Next meeting 6/26/19, Nfld town hall at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to accept minutes of 3/20/19 made by Bob, seconded by Tony, motion passed.

Motion to adjourn made by Bob, seconded by Tony, all in favor, mtg. adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Page