

HEART COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of November 8, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Michele Giarusso
Tracy Rogers
Richard Fontaine

Cheryl George
Bob Keir
Tony Matteo

Ginger Robinson
Bill Wahlstrom

Committee Members Absent:

Renee Keir, Alan Genovese, Jack Killeen, Sue O'Reilly McRae

Others Present:

Debbie Lynangale, facilitator; Shelby Ashline, The Recorder

Called to Order

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

Minutes

Bob Keir made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2017 meeting as written.

Tony Matteo seconded the motion and it was carried by a majority vote.

Updates

Bill reported that the Superintendent Search Committee sent a letter to several nearby school districts asking about the possibility of sharing a superintendent. Yesterday, the Committee was contacted by Franklin County Technical School and the Gill-Montague Regional School District to meet. Gill-Montague is considering including Pioneer and the Tech School to share one superintendent and business manager across all three entities. Mahar is also interested in sharing with Pioneer and its superintendent has permission from her three selectboards to talk with Pioneer. Pioneer is going to advertise for a business manager regardless. Gill-Montague is pursuing an Efficiency & Regionalization grant to study regionalization. Perhaps the HEART Committee should collaborate. Debbie reported that a group of people in the Gill-Montague District have created a committee similar to HEART called the Civic Leaders Group. They have also hired Debbie to facilitate their meetings. The Group was not involved in reaching out to Pioneer about sharing a superintendent.

Bob reported that at the Bernardston Selectboard meeting last week the Board suggested all four Pioneer selectboards share a superintendent and business manager. They're sending a letter making such a recommendation to all four boards for review before sending it to the School Committee.

Warwick initiated the November 9th "Leadership Training" happening at Pioneer.

Bill reported that at the School Policy Committee meeting, he proposed to cooperate fully with any requests for information from the HEART Committee. The issue became contentious and didn't come to a vote before the meeting was adjourned.

Sue had checked with Doc Pruyne to participate on the HEART Committee. He declined, but recommended someone else. Sue is reaching out to that person.

Michele reported trying to reach Alan Genovese multiple ways, but hasn't gotten a response.

Debbie asked if Committee members were feeling like their job remains the same as it started, given all that's going on. The Committee discussed conducting a joint study with Gill-Montague with their E&R grant, or even considering conducting a Franklin County study again. We don't want to duplicate efforts; we want to build on previous work. Michele will reach out to the superintendent of Gill-Montague and ask about collaborating. The Committee agreed to put the study consultant RFP on hold until we see what other groups are doing.

Communication

Bob, Tony, and Ginger reported that they met to draft a set of talking points for the Committee. Ginger read out a draft list of talking points. They determined that we need our own email address and suggested that we come up with a couple of sentences after every meeting and send it out via email to a distribution list of whoever is interested in hearing from us.

Michele will reach out to Joe Arsenault to determine the status of gathering information on town newsletters, Facebook, etc. Ginger raised concern about using Facebook because of the moderation that would be necessary. Cheryl suggested that we can set the page so it doesn't receive comments.

Tracy volunteered to set up a Gmail account for the Committee.

The Committee agreed that members should check in with their respective selectboards on a regular basis. Tony and Michele will report on progress to the School Committee at their November 16 meeting. We need to see if anyone is updating the Warwick Selectboard.

HEART Committee Membership

Bill noted that the Committee's numbers are dwindling, which becomes especially obvious when homework assignments are made. Tracy suggested the Committee notify those selectboards whose representatives aren't attending HEART meetings on a regular basis. Bob will talk with Jack and Joe about attendance. Members were also instructed to go back to each of their respective selectboards and ask them what their expectations of the Committee are, to help us determine our goal and our rules for voting membership.

Michele will invite members of the Gill-Montague School Committee and Civic Leaders Group to the HEART Committee meeting on November 20, which is a Monday. Because of holidays, November and December's meeting schedule will be slightly altered. We will meet on December 6 and 18 (also a Monday).

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 20, 2017 6:30 p.m. at the Northfield Town Hall, 2nd floor.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy Rogers