

HEART COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of January 3, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Michele Giarusso, Chair
Tracy Rogers, Secretary
Richard Fontaine

Cheryl George
Bob Keir
Sue O'Reilly McRae

Jean Page
Bill Wahlstrom

Others Present:

Debbie Lynangale, facilitator; Shelby Ashline, The Recorder

Committee Members Absent:

Joe Arsenault, Alan Genovese, Tony Matteo, Ginger Robinson

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Minutes

Bob made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2017 meeting as written. Sue seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Introductions

Committee members welcomed Jean Page, a new member appointed by the Bernardston Selectboard, and introduced themselves.

Updates

We have still heard no response from Joe Arsenault or Alan Genovese. Sue is on the Warwick Selectboard agenda for January 15 to ask for more members to be appointed.

Sue talked with Pat Shearer about collaborating with the School Committee on revising the District Agreement. Pat asked to have someone present at the School Committee's January 25 meeting. Michele and Bob are able to attend.

Sue left a message for Jay Sullivan, Associate Commissioner of School Finance and Support for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, but has not heard back from him yet.

Sue talked with Liz Laffond with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), who felt that the MASC could support the Pioneer School Committee in moving forward.

Tracy reported that Northfield Selectboard discussed allowing teachers and School Committee members to serve on the HEART Committee as voting members. They were okay with it as long as they file proper conflict of interest forms to avoid the appearance of conflict.

Committee members agreed to notify the four selectboards that we've done some work on the District Agreement and to share the current document in progress, inviting them to share their ideas.

Representative Mark suggested March 24 to hold a meeting at Greenfield Community College to bring all regional schools together to talk about common issues. Debbie asked Committee members what they would hope to gain from such a meeting. Members expressed interest in gaining clarity on what all of the groups

are working on (Berkshire schools, BEST Committee, Gill-Montague Civic Leaders, etc.), finding areas where we can work together, and obtaining guidance on how to work productively.

Cheryl George joined the meeting.

A subcommittee consisting of Bob, Michele, Sue, and Bill will work on the format of the meeting to propose to Rep. Mark. The subcommittee will bring ideas to the next HEART Committee meeting.

HEART Committee-Related Communications

Logos: Members gave Cheryl feedback on new drafts. She will have a final draft created and send it to members prior to the next meeting.

Facebook: Cheryl will set up a Facebook page once the logo is finalized. Tracy agreed to be Cheryl's backup for the Facebook page.

Emails: If someone sends an email to the HEART Gmail account, what will happen to it? The Committee agreed to wait on publishing email address for now.

Request for Proposal for Study Firm

Tracy made the changes to the scope discussed during the last meeting and sent the final version to Willie, who is currently on vacation. She hopes the RFP will be issued by end of next week.

Committee Principles of Operations

The Committee discussed how to go about finalizing the Principles of Operation drafted last year. Members agreed to come prepared to the next meeting with their top three priorities of what sections they want settled.

Future Meeting Dates

Debbie announced that funding for her facilitation work through the Council of Governments' grant has ended. Northfield is in the process of executing a contract with her to keep her services going. Jennie Ladd will be filling in for Debbie for the next two meetings while she is traveling.

February meeting dates will be 2/14 and 2/28.

Homework

- Choose three sections of the Principles of Operation that you most want to get settled.
- Cheryl will send a final draft of the logo out to members.
- Rep. Mark Meeting Subcommittee will bring ideas for the 3/24 meeting to our 1/17 meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 6:30 p.m. at the Northfield Town Hall, 2nd floor.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy Rogers