Committee to Study Dissolution

Regional School District No. 11

Minutes of the Meeting of January 4, 2017

I. Call to Order

Matthew Venhorst, appointee of the Commissioner of Education, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Committee Members

A roll call of Committee members was held, and each member provided a brief introductory statement. Attendance was as follows:

Present: Sheree Mailhot; Jennifer Nelson; John Bolduc; Stephanie Harrington; Clare D'Appollonio; William Fazioli; Rose Bisson; Matthew Venhorst; Nick Brown; Sherry Smardon attended in the place of Steven Kurcinik

Absent: Cesar Beltran; Steven Kurcinik

III. Review of Statutory Charge

Mr. Venhorst reviewed the statutory charge of the committee as set forth in Connecticut General Statutes § 10-63c.

IV. Election of Officers

Mr. Venhorst reported that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 10-41, officers of the Committee must be elected at the first meeting of the Committee. Mr. Venhorst recommended that the Committee elect a temporary chairperson to hold the election of officers. Ms. Smardon volunteered to serve as temporary chair, and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of Ms. Smardon's election as temporary chair.

Ms. Smardon received nominations for a slate of candidates to serve as officers. Brief discussion was held regarding the requirement, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 10-41, that the Treasurer be bonded. Following a brief discussion, the following slate of candidates was nominated:

Chairperson:	Ms. Nelson
Vice Chairperson:	Ms. Bisson
Treasurer:	Mr. Brown
Secretary:	Mr. Venhorst

Ms. Bisson moved, and Ms. D'Appollonio seconded, that the Committee elect the slate of candidates above. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Other Business

Ms. Nelson raised the question of when subsequent meetings would be held. Following a brief discussion regarding scheduling, it was determined that meetings would be held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 6 p.m. Meetings would be held in the Parish Hill Middle/High School Library. The Committee agreed that the first meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 1, at 6 p.m.

General discussion was held about the charge of the Committee and the report that is required pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 10-63c. Mr. Venhorst noted that, while the factors referenced in § 10-63c must be addressed in the Committee's final report, the Committee is not limited to those factors in developing a recommendation regarding the advisability of withdrawal or dissolution. Mr. Venhorst also distributed copies of the report, dated June 29, 2009, of the previous Committee convened to consider dissolution of the regional school district. Discussion was held regarding the applicability of the previous study and the study entitled, "Comprehensive Enrollment Analysis and Facility Utilization Study," conducted by Milone & MacBroom, and dated October 2014. Discussion ensued regarding the quality and completeness of the 2009 Dissolution Committee report, with several Committee members commenting that the report would have benefited from more specificity regarding the plan to dissolve the school district.

Ms. Smardon raised the issue of whether Committee members not able to attend a particular meeting would be able to designate a substitute to attend the meeting in place of the member. Discussion ensued and Ms. Nelson commented that she felt that member's should be able to have a substitute, provided the member fully apprises the substitute of the business to be conducted at the meeting. Ms. Nelson further commented she believed the substitute member should have a vote.

It was determined that the Committee would review the 2014 Milone & MacBroom report and would discuss this report at the meeting of February 1, 2017.

VI. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Nelson adjourned the meeting.