Committee to Study Dissolution

Regional School District No. 11

Minutes of the Meeting of February 1, 2017

I. Call to Order

Jennifer Nelson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Present: Clare D'Appollonio, Jennifer Nelson, Steven Kurcinik, Stephanie Harrington, William Hooper (in attendance for John Bolduc), Cesar Beltran (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Rose Bisson, Nick Brown, Matthew Venhorst, William Fazioli (via telephone), Sheree Mailhot (via telephone)

Absent: Sherry Smardon

II. Audience for Citizens

No members of the public wished to speak during this portion of the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes of January 4, 2017

Ms. D'Appollonio moved, and Ms. Bisson seconded, that the minutes be approved.

IV. Discussion of Milone and MacBroom Report

A general discussion was held regarding the report and the charge of the Committee. A review of the statutory charge of the Committee, as set forth in C.G.S. § 10-63c, was conducted, and further discussion ensued.

V. Discussion of Survey Results of 4 Boards of Education Committee and Non-Binding Referendum Results of November, 2016

A general discussion was held regarding the survey results of the document entitled "Survey for the Chaplin, Hampton, Scotland and Regional District Eleven Boards of Education." It was observed that the survey results revealed generally that respondents were opposed to closing local elementary schools. There was discussion among the committee as to what constitutes a "quality education" and how that can best be achieved. Committee members questioned whether it would be permissible for the Region 11 Board of Education to remain intact (i.e., not to dissolve) and for the Board of Education to discontinue services for Grade 9-12 students at Parish Hill and for students to be sent to other districts through tuition arrangements. Mr. Venhorst noted that this is not explicitly addressed in the Connecticut General Statutes, and that this issue requires further examination.

VI. Working with Addition/Withdrawal Committee/4 Boards of Education Committee

Various Committee members commented that it would be beneficial for the Dissolution Committee to work collaboratively with the Addition/Withdrawal Committee. One reason was that both committees would seek the same or similar information as part of the reports that must be produced pursuant to the statutory charges of the two committees. It was also noted that, although the two committees have distinct statutory charges, both Committees are ultimately concerned with identifying an arrangement of the district that is beneficial to the school district and for the students of the towns of Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland. Nick Brown agreed to attend the 2/27/17 meeting of the Addition/Withdrawal Committee for purposes of updating the Appendix to the 2009 Region 11 Dissolution Study Committee Report.

VII. Next Steps

The Committee agreed that, given the significant amount of work facing the Committee, the Committee would next meet on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m., which will allow for more frequent meetings than the previously anticipated monthly meeting schedule would allow. Discussion was held that it would be necessary for this Committee to examine, among other areas, cost factors of educating students at Parish Hill and in alternative settings.

VIII. Audience for Citizens

Scotland Superintendent Francis Baran, who previously served as Superintendent of Schools in Woodstock, offered insightful commentary regarding the factors to be considered in having students attend other school districts on a tuition basis.

IX. Adjourn

Ms. Nelson adjourned the meeting.