

TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



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COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION IN GILL MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2009

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m.

Present

Jenn Waldron, Peter Conway, Joanne Rabideau (arrived late), Kyle Maurer, Sue Sibley, Doff Storrow, Commission members; Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

Absent

Joanne Wallace, Ted Castro-Santos, Commission members.

Review of Minutes

Sue made a motion to accept minutes from the April 8 meeting as written. Peter seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) and Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD)

Doff reported that the GMRSD voted recently to approach PVRSD about consolidating the two districts. PVRSD reports that it is being approached by many other towns/districts. The PVRSD School Committee is forming a task force (subcommittee) to talk with other towns/districts. No current PVRSD towns are putting any articles on their warrants this year to form planning committees, but the PVRSD superintendent confirmed that it would be necessary for each town to do so.

The Commission discussed whether or not it should leave the article on the warrant for Gill to form a planning committee. Members decided that there was no downside in forming a planning committee, even if other towns were not.

Joanne R. joined the meeting.

The Commission discussed whether it should leave the article on the warrant that asks the GMRSD School Committee to draw up amendments to the current regional agreement. Doff expressed concern about causing a damaging and expensive "divorce" if the article was kept on the warrant. Given that the Selectboard is due to sign the warrant in a few days, the Commission decided to leave the article on the warrant, but to discuss during its next meeting whether it should make a motion to pass over the article when it comes to town meeting.

Jenn made a motion to end Article 2 after the MGL citation to leave the article in more general terms—not specifying any particular school district. She withdrew her motion and Sue made a motion to add the following words after “joining the Pioneer Valley Regional School District”: “or adding any towns to the GMRSD”. Jenn seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Outstanding Reports

- Jenn will finish her narrative re the elementary schools by 4/20
- Peter will get his information to Jenn and Joanne R. by the end of the day on 4/19
- Joanne R. will finish the grid by 4/20
- Joanne R. will summarize MCAS and other data
- Everyone will send a list of links to Tracy to include on the website

Final Report

Sue made a motion to place all Commission members’ names on the front of the report, rather than on each member’s individual piece of the report. Jenn seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Presentation on 4/27

- Joanne R. will borrow a projector from school.
- If members send Tracy a bulleted list of their pieces of the report, she will collate them into a single PowerPoint presentation.
- Jeff Wulfson will start the evening with a 10-minute presentation, then the Commission will present, then Q&A.

Publicity/Invitations

- Dayle Doiron and members of the PVRSD School Committee have already agreed to come.
- Tracy will invite Montague officials.
- Doff will confirm Jeff Wulfson.
- Joanne R. will make sure that Joanne W. puts something in the school newsletter.
- Tracy will invite Mary Kociela and let her know it would be alright if the new superintendent would like to come.
- Tracy will write a press release.
- Tracy reported that information has already been sent to the Gill Newsletter and that Selectman Ann Banash has already submitted an op-ed piece to the Recorder.

Adjourned

Joanne R. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sue seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

Doff Storrow or Ted Castro-Santos, Commission Co-Chair