

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 8, 2009

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Present

Jenn Waldron, Peter Conway, Joanne Rabideau, Kyle Maurer, Sue Sibley, Doff Storrow, Ted Castro-Santos, Commission members; Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

Absent

Joanne Wallace, Commission member.

Review of Minutes

The Commission unanimously approved minutes of the March 25 meeting as written.

Reports

Members discussed the status of completed and ongoing research reports:

- Joanne R. will write a report on the 1992 study
- Jenn will talk with Erika Almeida, the GMRSD publicist, and similar personnel at the other schools to ensure we include information on what positive activities are happening
- Kyle will report on other school options (ex: pilot schools, charter schools, the Readiness Project) by the end of the week
- Joanne R. will write a section on potential personnel issues
- Doff will write the introduction/summary
- Jenn will finish her narrative re the elementary schools by 4/14
- Ted will compile the full report.

Ted made a motion to include the information on potential personnel issues as an appendix, but to include much of it in the executive summary as well. Doff seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

The Commission discussed how the summary must address the fact that some of the questions cannot be answered until they are negotiated.

Minimum Contribution

Doff and Tracy explained how the school assessment is not divided between the two towns entirely by student ratio. The state has a "minimum contribution" formula it uses to

determine how much each town can “afford” to pay, based on property valuation and per capita income. Using this formula, Gill is considered a more affluent community than Montague and, therefore, has a higher minimum contribution (per capita) that it must pay.

Tracy explained that there is an “alternative assessment methodology,” which would apply the student ratio to the entire budget, but both town meetings would have to vote to accept it annually for it to be used. In FY10, this methodology would shift \$58,000 off of Gill’s assessment directly onto Montague’s. There is no reason to expect that Montague would approve of this at this time, so the Commission decided not to focus any further energy on the subject.

Warrant Articles

Doff proposed three warrant articles for annual town meeting. After revisions and reordering, the following is what the Commission agreed to ask the Selectboard to place on the warrant:

Article 1: To see if the Town of Gill will vote to request the Selectboard form a committee to study and recommend for consideration possible changes to the Gill Montague Regional School District Agreement (*Agreement between the Towns of Montague and Gill with Respect to the Formation of a Regional School District*), or take any action relative thereto.

Article 2: To see if the Town of Gill will vote to form a Regional School District Planning Committee pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71 §14 to study the fiscal and educational advisability of joining the Pioneer Valley Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 3: To see if the Town of Gill will vote to request that the Gill Montague Regional School Committee draw up amendments to the Gill Montague Regional School District Agreement (*Agreement between the Towns of Montague and Gill with Respect to the Formation of a Regional School District*) setting forth the terms of Gill’s withdrawal from the Gill Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Future Meetings

The Commission set an additional meeting date of April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourned

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenn seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

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