

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 *February 11, 2009*

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Present

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

Absent

Jenn Waldron, Joanne Wallace, Commission members.

Review Minutes

Sue made a motion to accept minutes from the January 14 meeting as written. Peter seconded the motion and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Report on Meeting with Selectboard

Ted and Doff reported on their meeting with the Selectboard on February 2. The Board was very impressed with the list of questions the Commission is pursuing.

Ted and Doff also announced that they had sent letters to Pioneer Valley Regional School District's superintendent, Gill-Montague's superintendent, Assoc. Commission of DESE Jeff Wulfson, Christine Lynch of DESE, the Town of Montague to let them know what the Commission is up to.

Ted contacted Ken Rocke about his work with Heath on its committee that had a similar charge to the Commission. Ken offered to talk to the Commission not as a superintendent, but as a Heath resident involved on the committee. The Commission agreed to have Ted invite Ken to the Commission's next meeting. Tracy will send our current list of questions to Ken to let him know what areas the Commission is researching.

Progress Reports

Peter shared his report on what it might cost to run the Gill Elementary School on its own. The Commission had several questions. Peter will do further work and report back. He will also put the information he has on the Gill Elementary facilities into narrative form.

The Commission discussed how leaving the district, or joining another district, might affect all parties' Chapter 70 aid. Tracy said she believed that Sean Barry with Senator Rosenberg's office has some extensive knowledge on the subject and volunteered to contact him.

The Commission questioned whether Pioneer has any excess capacity to take on Gill students. Ted will contact Pioneer's superintendent to begin conversations.

The Commission added the following section of questions to the list of research questions:

- XI) If we stay in the Gill Montague district...
 - a) Are Gill taxpayers getting their fair share?
 - b) Are Gill students getting their fair share?
 - c) What are the District's plans for improvement? (i.e. Turnaround Plan)

Deadlines

Doff recommended the Commission aim at having a rough draft complete two meetings before the public hearing, which would be March 11. The final draft would be due the following meeting date, March 25.

Adjourned

Ted made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Sue seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

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