MINUTES OF THE
AYER SHIRLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Page Hilltop School, Professional Development Room, Ayer
Tuesday, December 4, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.

Board Members Present:
Joyce L. Reischutz, Chair
Michele L. Granger, Secretary
James D. Quinty, Member - Arrived 7:20 pm
Daniel W. Gleason, Member – Arrived 7:45 pm

Board Members Absent:
Patrick W. Kelly, Vice Chair
Susan A.B. Therriault, Member

Staff Members Present:
Carl E. Mock, Superintendent
Mary Beth Hamel, Assistant Superintendent
Evan T. Katz, Finance Director
Laura E. Jordan-Callahan, Recording Secretary

Staff Members Absent:

High School Student Representatives:

Guests Present:
Fred Deppe, Principal, Page Hilltop School
Karen DeWitt, Assistant Principal Page Hilltop School

Out of Order
While waiting for a quorum, members present agreed to hear reports only, and not take any action.

ASRSD “Showcase”
The Committee was entertained by preschool and kindergarten students from Page Hilltop School. Mrs. Ducharme, Mrs. Leombruno, Mrs. Campaner and Ms. Hamel assisted their preschool students, Colm Fallon, Alex Feiring, Amelia Brickley, Dalton Garner, Tony Mendez, Abram Feiring, Riley Grant and Elizabeth Chilicky, with a Thanksgiving Song. Mrs. Wilson’s and Ms. Goldthwaite’s kindergarten students, Sophia Andrade, Brady Martone, Hayden Fallon, and Isabella St. John, demonstrated, in costume as pilgrims and indians, how Thanksgiving relates to the curriculum.

High School Nashua, New Hampshire Field Trip
High School Spanish Teachers, Consuelo Walker and Gabriela Visco explained how a visit to Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant would tie into the curriculum as they’re finishing up
their chapter objectives in learning about Mexican food. Margarita’s has a strong connection to Mexican culture and craft traditions. Students will order food in Spanish, converse with the restaurant staff in Spanish, watch a film and tour a folk art presentation. Students will also learn to make guacamole and salsa. The day trip is scheduled for December 19, 2012.

FLLAC Report
Richard Murphy, Ph.D., FLLAC Collaborative Executive Director, spoke to the Committee about the many programs it provides to children with autism, developmental disabilities, and emotional, behavioral issues. They also make diagnostic placements from time-to-time. FLLAC serves ten school districts in north central Massachusetts by providing high quality, cost effective educationally related programs and services. An 11th district, Quabbin, was recently added to the Collaborative. FLLAC’s mission is to meet the current and evolving needs of their member districts. The Collaborative has been able to place the majority of its students locally, in and around Ayer and Shirley. Mr. Murphy commented on the increase in intensity of young children with psychiatric and behavioral issues that is seen to be a trend across the state. During the summer, FLLAC continues to provide services by bringing many of its programs to the Ayer campus to operate alongside the 6 classrooms that are already here.

Call to Order
Mrs. Reischutz, with a quorum of four present, called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m., stating that the meeting is being recorded.

Approval of Minutes
Moved by Michele Granger and seconded by Daniel Gleason to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2012 as distributed. All were in favor.

Comments from the Public
None

New Business
High School Out of State Field Trip to Nashua, NH
With a quorum now present, Michele Granger moved to approve the high school Spanish class field trip to Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant in Nashua, New Hampshire, on December 19, 2012. Daniel Gleason seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Out of Order
Report on Chair’s Attendance at the Joint Deven’s Advisory Board (DEAC)
Mrs. Reischutz reported that she had attended the Joint Advisory Board meeting, on behalf of Ayer Shirley Regional School District, to express an interest in bidding for the opportunity to educate the children of Devens, when the contract reopens. The contract with Harvard is expected to expire at the end of June, 2015. There are 77 students living on Devens who are now being educated in the Harvard Public Schools.

GASB 45/Other Postemployment Benefits Programs (OPEB) Draft Report
Mr. Katz introduced Linda Bournival of KMS Actuaries, LLC, who provided a report summarizing the results of an actuarial valuation of the Ayer Shirley Regional School District’s Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) Other Than Pensions, as of July 1, 2011.
Ms. Bournival presented a PowerPoint® presentation walking the Committee through best estimate health care cost trend assumptions, plan provisions, methods, and summaries of demographic profiles of active employees and retirees. The valuation was based on a discount rate of 4.0% compounded annually and an alternative 8% discount rate should the District decide to fully prefund the benefit liabilities. Mr. Katz stated that the Board could decide to accept the draft report and incorporate it into the audit, if it so desired.

Mr. Gleason moved that the Ayer Shirley Regional School Committee accept the Other Postemployment Benefits Program Actuarial Valuation Report, dated July 1, 2011, from KMS Actuaries, LLC, pending removal of the term “surviving spouse” anywhere it appears in the report. Michele Granger seconded the motion. It was unanimous.

Ongoing Business
FY2012 Financial Report Summary
Mr. Katz informed the Committee that the summaries included in the packet tonight reflect a correction to FY12 Expenses and Net Columns under school choice that was mentioned at the last Committee meeting. The Expenditure Summary FY12, All Fund Types, by categories, is a snapshot of how the District spent its money in FY12. Mr. Katz stated he would get the final closeout documentation to the Board sometime in January.

RSC Meeting Schedule January – June 2013
Discussion about scheduling RSC meetings for the second half of the school year was tabled for the December 19 meeting, when a full Board will be present.

Superintendent’s Report
Project Feasibility Closeout
Mr. Mock informed the Committee that this would be the last time we update them on the feasibility study. We will now be updating the Committee on the high school project. For the Board’s perusal, Mr. Mock included a summary of feasibility study total expenses, as well as a breakdown by OPM, Designer and CM @ Risk, as well as other expenses, of what was spent in FY12 and FY13 to-date. The report shows a total of $90,426 to the good.

High School Project Update
Mr. Mock identified some of the activities that have taken place in the past few weeks. The OPM, SMMA and the construction management firm, Consigli Construction, have met to talk about scheduling, designing and procuring temporary space in the old middle school wing. The SBC met last week to roll out a quick-paced schedule that will begin as early as February, 2013. Mr. Mock met with OPM Trip Elmore, to discuss SMMA’s proposal. SMMA had representatives on sight, (architects, education planner and a functioning and equipment firm), to talk with staff about room design. We have not heard from the DESE about the Special Education space issue.

Other
Referring to the request made by LAW Principal Pat Fitzgerald and endorsed by the RSC, regarding the traffic flow in front of the school during drop-off and pick-up times, Mr. Mock announced that the Shirley Board of Selectmen, in conjunction with the Chief of Police, approved the request to change the flow of traffic to enter from Lancaster Road down School...
Street. The change will begin December 18th and will be in effect on school days from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Other Topics for Discussion Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of this Meeting
None

Communications included in the December 4, 2012 packet
  a. Monthly Enrollment, December 1, 2012

There being no further business, Mrs. Reischutz called for a motion to enter into Executive Session to conduct a collective bargaining workshop declaring that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the body. Michele Granger moved and Daniel Gleason seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:29 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a collective bargaining workshop, (Reason #3), only to return to the regularly scheduled open meeting to adjourn. Unanimous by Roll Call.

Documents included in the December 4, 2012 packet by item #
  6a. Overnight Out-of-State Field Trip Approval Form
      • Tío Juan’s Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant Information Sheet
  6c. KMS Actuaries, LLC Ayer Shirley Regional School District Other Postemployment Benefits Program Actuarial Valuation, July 1, 2011
      • PowerPoint® Slideshow Presentation
  7a. General Fund Revenue FY12 (11/30/12)
      • Special Revenue Funds FY12 (11/30/12)
      • Expense Summary FY12 All Fund Types
  8a. Summary Feasibility Closeout (12/4/12)
      • FY12 HS Feasibility Study Expenses
      • FY13 HS Feasibility Study Expenses

Future Agenda Items
  a. Late Bus Schedule and Cost Analysis
  b. Snow Removal Plan (Protocol) (Evan Katz)
  c. School Committee Advisory Council (Pat Kelly)
  d. Educator Evaluation System Tool (Mary Beth Hamel)
  e. Establish Policy – Class size – School Choice Guidelines
  g. Follow-up MCAS Growth Report in terms of Strategic Goals & Dart Report (Mary Beth Hamel)
  h. Follow-up Priority Learning Goals by Instructional Team/Departments (Mary Beth Hamel)

See Executive Session Minutes, December 4, 2012

Moved by Dan Gleason, seconded by Jim Quinty to adjourn open session at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura E. J. Callahan, Recording Secretary