

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
JOINT ADVISORY BOARD AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016

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Advisory Board members in attendance – Bill Johnson, Chair, Gail Dumont, Bruce Whitney, and Jaime Piedrafite. Board of Selectmen in attendance; Kyle Johnson, Leo Janssens, and Duncan Phyfe, Chair. Doug Briggs, Town Administrator, and Sylvia Turcotte, Executive Assistant were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Bill Johnson stated that this meeting was to review the changes in the Regional Agreement before they are sent to the School Committee for their review.

Duncan Phyfe gave a brief history on how these changes were developed.

Bill Johnson stated that the four chairs, John Fairbanks, BOS Chair and Jim DeLisle, Advisory Board Chair, both from Westminster and Duncan Phyfe and himself from Ashburnham, met in Westminster in an available conference room and held four meetings to discuss the agreement. One of the changes discussed was that Westminster wanted five members and Ashburnham to have four, and Mr. Johnson stated that this wasn't an issue, as it was based on town population. He stated that at the last meeting he wanted to take out the wording on the alternative method of assessment but Westminster didn't agree. He did say that they ultimately agreed after much discussion to only have the statutory method wording in the agreement. There was a short discussion on whether there should be 11 members on the School Committee with Westminster having 6 and Ashburnham 5 in order to keep members who have served the towns well and have a wealth of knowledge. It was determined that a smaller committee was preferable.

After some discussion on Sections 2 and 3 of the agreement, it was determined to keep them in.

Bill Johnson discussed Section 4 which is regarding capital. Mr. Johnson also touched on Item E which is regarding the Statutory Method.

He then discussed the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) regulations and chart of accounts which is the same for all districts. He suggested that they tie in to DESE 7000 series chart of accounts on the capital items. And Kyle Johnson added that they should add a modifier, to account for changes in the DESE account.

He noted that Section 5 dealt with capital expenses and that he was the one that wanted this added to the agreement. A short discussion followed on the Westminster Capital Plan and the School's Capital Plan, which is for \$500k this year and \$1.2m next year to fix or replace the turf.

He added that there were a few minor wording issues in Sections 8 and 9.

Mr. Johnson stated that if they vote tonight to approve the proposed revisions, then it will go to the School Committee for their perusal.

***Kyle Johnson made the motion to approve the Regional Agreement revisions dated 3/31/16 as amended and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried, all in favor.***

***Gail Dumont made the motion to approve the Regional Agreement revisions dated 3/31/16 as amended and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. All in favor.***

***At 8:05 p.m. Gail Dumont made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte  
Executive Assistant