

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Holbrook/Avon Joint Meeting of

Monday, August 19, 2013

Present: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman (also PSBC)  
Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk  
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate

Absent: Matthew V. Moore, Associate

In attendance: Marjorie E. Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Gordon, in the Holbrook Community Access Media (H-CAM) Studios, Suite 2-4, 140 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Board of Selectmen – Avon:  
Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman  
Robert F. Brady  
Steven P. Rose

School Superintendents:  
Patricia Lally (also PSBC) – Holbrook  
Paul A. Zinni – Avon

Town Administrator Michael McCue – Avon

School Committee – Holbrook:  
John Flanagan  
Beth Tolson (also PSBC)

School Committee – Avon:  
Carol Marinelli, Chairperson  
Jeanne Martineau  
Tracy Sheehan  
Sharon Marble

Permanent School Building Committee (PSBC) – Holbrook:  
Daniel Moriarty, Jr.  
Michael Reith

Joel G. Seeley, Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, Owner's Project Manager  
Stephen Hemman, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS)  
Stephen Donovan, MARS Consultant  
Malcolm Reid, MARS Consultant

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Following the introductions of all committee members and consultants present, Mr. Seeley gave a brief history of the current school building project in Holbrook, from August 2012 to the present. He explained that the Town has been working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) through the enrollment certification period and into the feasibility agreement period. Flansburgh Associates, Inc., an architectural firm, has been hired to complete the design, and MARS has been hired to perform a regionalization study. The Town is in Module 3, looking at alternatives to meet the educational needs of the students.

Mr. Hemman discussed the reasons to explore regionalization including the financial, the facilities and the educational programs. He explained that the process to be followed will determine the advantages and challenges to regionalization, and it will respond to questions and concerns that will be raised.

Educational, financial and demographic information would be collected from both towns. If the towns decide to go forward, the process of regionalization would include forming regional planning committees, a regional planning board, entering into a regional agreement, the public review of the agreement, and voter and state approval.

Mr. Gordon explained that this joint meeting with the Town of Avon is to determine if there is interest in exploring school regionalization between the two towns in order to determine what educational benefits regionalizing might offer. It was explained that there is some flexibility in the project to increase the enrollment and build a regional high school. Mr. Seeley said that Holbrook's feasibility study agreement expires in January 2014, but the MSBA would be willing to work with Holbrook. In response to a question from the Avon School Committee, Chairman Gordon explained that the Town of Avon has been approached as a potential regional partner, in part because of the limited funds allocated to completing the regional study, but because the two towns share other things already, e.g. some youth sports. Mr. Seeley said the goal is to consider whether to continue on this exploration to determine whether regionalizing is viable to both Holbrook and Avon. He said that Holbrook is well into the preliminary design process. The regionalization study information will be sent to the MSBA, and the schematic design is scheduled for the spring or summer of 2014.

Members of the Avon School Committee commented that they did not see any harm in submitting the information and data being requested for the study, and reviewing the report to see what is recommended, noting that it is valuable information. Questions were raised about whether this would delay Holbrook's project in any way, and assurance was offered by the MARS consultant that the MSBA will do everything they can to help with this process because the MSBA wants to do the right thing for the two towns.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

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Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Handout on forming a Regional School District