

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Holbrook/Avon Joint Meeting of

Monday, December 2, 2013

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

In attendance: William J. Phelan, Town Administrator (also PSBC)

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

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

Town Administrator Michael McCue – Avon

School Committee – Holbrook:
Barbara Davis, Chairman (also PSBC)
Beth Tolson (also PSBC)
John Flanagan

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

Permanent School Building Committee (PSBC) – Holbrook:
Daniel Moriarty, Jr., Chairman
Michael Reith
Frederick White
Vincent Hayward, Principal, Holbrook Jr/Sr High
Michael Bolger, School Facilities Director

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
Paul Gaglarducci, MARS Consultant

Following the introductions of all committee members and consultants present, it was explained that this meeting was called as an information sharing meeting so that everyone gains an understanding of the regionalization study performed by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS). The representatives of MARS introduced themselves and explained they all have experience with consolidating schools and the three components – education, finance, and control. The statistics and demographics used in the Holbrook/Avon study were explained. In ten years, the school population in

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Holbrook is projected to increase by 12 students, while Avon is expected to see a decrease of 28 students over the same timeframe. MARS explained that even combined, the district would be considered small. The current course offerings and the academic and extra-curricular opportunities that may be possible if Holbrook and Avon combine were discussed. The various school configurations under consideration were reviewed in relationship to regionalization, with MARS concluding that the only alternative that lends itself to regionalization is the PK-12 building, which could house Holbrook and Avon grades 7-12 if they were to regionalize.

During a question and answer period following the MARS presentation, the potential educational improvements, potential cost savings, how regionalizing might affect the Town vote on the building project, and the steps in the regionalization process were discussed. MARS advised that if the towns are going to join together, it has to be done because it is better for the students, not because the town will save money. The Avon School Committee indicated that it does not want to delay the new school building project in Holbrook.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk