SPECIAL MEETING – AD HOC COLLABORATION COMMITTEE
Litchfield Board of Education
Tuesday, January 9, 2018, Central Office Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.

A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education Ad Hoc Collaboration Committee was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:02 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

Members Present: Mr. Morosani (chair); Ms. Carr; Ms. Tenney; Superintendent Turner; and Mr. Fiorillo.

Also present: Member of the press.

Dates for Future Regular and Special Meetings: January 30th at 5:30 pm; February 21st at 5:00 pm; March 26th at 5:30 pm; April 30th at 5:30 pm; and thereafter the 4th Monday of each month.

Review existing collaboration efforts with other districts/municipal entities: Reviewed Sherri's report. Regarding Region 6 - Look at blocks where there can be some collaboration. Last block may make it easier. They are also on a 4x4 block. Both districts have small buses which may be able to be used without additional cost or squeezed into routes. Sherri and Kristen to meet with R 6 Superintendent Leone and Wamogo Principal Loveland on January 18 to discuss specific courses that might be shared.

Review of David's list of collaborations/cost sharing. Always open for shared contracts and shared bids. But must also meet educational needs.

Review current collaboration with other districts: John showed a map that showed that towns that are the same distance as the northern edge of Goshen include Thomaston, all of R-6, Bethlehem, Watertown, Washington, and most of Cornwall and Plymouth. John reported that he had been in discussion with a board member from Thomaston and a board member from Region 12. Both districts are having the same declining enrollment/budget issues.

Given the demands of budgeting, it is unlikely that we will be able to enter discussions with districts other than R-6 that will impact the 2018/2019 academic year, but after the budget has been accepted, it may make sense to sit down with districts beyond R 6 to see if there are other class sharing opportunities. Gayle suggested the possibility of hosting a collaboration/resource sharing meeting for all neighboring districts that would like to attend in the spring/summer.

The question arose as to what the committee was hoping to accomplish: merging classes, sports team, school activities, etc. The discussion concluded that it was important to concentrate on those districts that shared the same cultural desire for a high quality school system. It was decided to concentrate at the high school for now.

Shrinking populations and cost sharing issues may overcome past board resistances to regionalization. Finding the right partner includes considering each town's educational priorities and philosophies and curriculum alignment.

Seherr-Thoss Grant: David reported that LPS had received a grant from the Seherr-Thoss Charitable Trust in the amount of $9,000 to be used to further the study of collaboration opportunities between LPS and R-6.

Prioritize near teem discussions with other districts/municipal entities:
- John agreed to contact the Northwest Council of Governments to see if there were sharing/collaboration opportunities with multiple districts/municipal entities.
- Sherri will discuss with Principal Della Volpe what subjects would be areas of excellence for Litchfield to try to invite students from other schools to participate in and to talk with R-6 to determine what sports programs are at levels that would make it possible to merge without causing a league competition issue.
- It was agreed to see if there are ways to share a resource in the event of staff turnover at Litchfield or other districts.
- It was agreed that we would study the possibility of consolidating substitutes with other districts, to include the possibility of sharing staff jobs that incur overtime.

MOTION made by Jodi Tenney and seconded by David Fiorillo: to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gayle Carr
Recording Secretary