

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING - Litchfield BOE Ad Hoc Collaboration Committee and Regional School District No. 6 Board of Education Long Term Planning Committee Tuesday, March 20, 2018, Litchfield Intermediate School Art Room 5:00 p.m.

A joint special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education Ad Hoc Collaboration Committee and the Regional School District No. 6 Board of Long Term Planning Committee was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 5:05 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art Room.

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

Region 6 Members Present: Mr. Sanders (chair), Mr. Rebusmen, Superintendent Leone, Curriculum Director Kennedy. Absent: Principal Loveland.

Also in Attendance: Matthew Terzian, Mrs. Sanders, and James Stedronsky.

Discussion of Academic Cooperation at LHS/Wamogo:

- Five classes will be shared at each high school.
- Wamogo: AP Chemistry, AP Music Theory, Accounting II, UConn ECE - Essential Economics, Spanish IV/V Honors.
- Litchfield: AP Biology, Latin I and maybe Latin II, Latin III Honors, AP Latin and Latin IV Honors.
- Wamogo has 6 blocks and will absorb cost of 6th block required to teach Latin II possibly.
- Litchfield has 5 blocks.
- Wamogo is reaching out to the Tech Ed teacher (from Litchfield) who is being downsized to see if they can hire him.
- Fall production of Theatre at Wamogo for Litchfield Students.
- Spring production of Theatre at Litchfield for Wamogo Students.
- Shuttle van to be provided by Wamogo. The two districts will need to have a shared services agreement with a memo of understanding.
- Alternative students Legacy Program will stay at Litchfield.
- Information relating to shared classes to be released following completion of first schedule run – maybe around May 1st.
- Principals will have a parent meeting for information about students taking classes at the other school.
- We can expect push back from theatre parents and kids about those expecting lead roles (i.e. Litchfield kid gets lead in Wamogo play). Be prepared. Mr. Sanders pointed out that this should be less of an issue as the cooperation progresses as interested students will have worked together on productions for a longer period of time.
- Mr. Sanders asked if only 28 students participating in classes at the other school, is it worth doing? Consensus was “yes.” Thirty or so children are a lot in this district and it increases opportunities for enrichment and the program should grow over time. Should continue to reassess.

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- For Wamogo the shared classes offer a better opportunity than the alternative which is online education. Increases flexibility and opportunities.
- Sports – there is cooperative crew and skiing programs; however, for CIAC sports if each school offers a sport, there cannot be joint teams. In the Berkshire League competition is dependent on school size; combined teams would change the level of competitions.

Discussion of area of actual/potential cooperation in the business offices and operations:

- Clerical support to pick up and purchase by Wamogo re. processing and purchasing orders. They do not have bargaining unit on that. Litchfield has part time position for accounts payable. We could help if she wanted to help with Wamogo. They need processing on front end help. For us we do that through the secretarial department.
- John spoke with Leo Paul regarding combining health services plans. Leo is amenable to having Region 6 join together with Litchfield BOE and Town of Litchfield. Not a certainty that combining the two districts together will produce a level of costs savings. Litchfield is self-insured. Wamogo purchases health insurance. There are 465 participants in Litchfield's schools and town plan and 350 in Region 6. Typically, an increase in the overall number of participants increases the overall stability of the pool.
- Alignment of employee contracts is the 1st place to go with a true collaboration. The next step is for David Fiorillo and Chris Leone to put each district's health plan benefits on one spread sheet to see how the two plans compare.
- Other shared services discussion should include joint supply buying, joint purchasing of environmental safety services and training, waste management, cooperation on teacher substitutes and school nurse substitutes.
- For teacher substitutes, it would appear that both districts pay approximately the same rate, and that it should be possible for the two districts working together to create a larger pool of substitutes that could work at either district.
- Similarly, Wamogo has substitute nurses on call and can share with Litchfield.
- Each Region 6 town provides in kind services to plow the elementary schools in the individual towns, while Wamogo does its own plowing. It may be possible to share Wamogo's plowing capability with Litchfield after the expiration of the Litchfield Plowing contract in 2019.
- Liability Insurance. All use CIRMA. May be a good place to collaborate but Litchfield uses the town's policy because the town owns the buildings.
- From a capital standpoint, there could be benefits to having both districts participate in joint bids on a larger project-say large solar fields or boiler replacements. One issue is that Litchfield's capital replacement purchases must be submitted for the approval of the Town Capital Committee.

Next steps/next meeting:


- Next meeting – Tuesday, May 8th at 5:00 p.m. at Wamogo.
- 1) Review health insurance benefit plans; 2) review actual enrollment of shared classes, and 3) business operations sharing.

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MOTION made by Mr. Leone and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Gayle Carr, Recording Secretary