

Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD)
&
Richmond Consolidated School (RCS)
District Consolidation/Shared Services Sub-Committee
October 28, 2020- Minutes
5:30pm Via GoogleMeet Hangouts

APPROVED RCS

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/paz-mrig-sxt

Phone Numbers: (US)+1 470-273-8262 PIN: 492 410 036#

Present:

Berkshire Hills: Peter Dillon, Richard Dohoney, Stephen Bannon, Anne Hutchinson, Molly Thomas, Sean Stephen

Richmond: Dewey Wyatt, Adeline Ellis, Ina Wilhelm

Public/Staff: Neal, Lauren, Rachel, Michelle, Eileen, Jill, Bob Gnadek

Meeting Opened at 5:31pm

Dewey opened for RCS; Rich Dohoney opened for BHRSD. Roll call of members.

Dewey — maintain autonomy and be financially viable, pay properly for value we get, concerns about us getting linked in to a high school project, continued shared services, tuition agreement that expires mid-year also

Ina — instability — 3 year contract period because of instability

Dewey — we carved out an hour for tonight, to early

Ina — does it seem to be a possibility

Rich — anything is a possibility, no definite plan, good or bad

extending an agreement 3, 4, 5 or ending

first opportunity to explore things

Adeline — Peter doing a great job during COVID time period, some concerns from select board — would like to see long term shared services agreement, if you go with SBRSD what happens (drain some services for us), some support for us going with Lenox

Rich — I agree year to year is not a good model, we started with two and then two 1 year extensions

Ina — other variables

Dewey — time, other challenges

Rich — MSBA — mentioned from time and capacity

Dewey —if Richmond had a large increase, we need to really understand cost of services

Anne — whatever happens with SBRSD is years away

Dewey — Richmond wanted to hear that shared services is a workable option, because we all need time to plan

Ina — would be honorable to resolve this and honor Peter's work before we look at Lenox

Rich — agreement might be simpler now, termination clauses etc., what effect it has on us in terms of a capacity gain, our capacity in some ways is better and in some not

Dewey - is part of this bridging an element on the Richmond side?

Steve — this can be done fairly quickly, it's a team approach — Peter, Sharon and Steve when we need him

Rich — would learning and teaching role be shared? We need to be sure our stuff is covered to be able to share

Steve — we can add to our meeting on 11/12

Dewey — one year is exhausting, three years goes by fast, write a contract to extend, do we reassess and when?

Steve - renegotiate at beginning of third year, three seems to make sense

Dewey — shared service model an option

Rich — we will discuss on 11/12 and with 48 hours a written communication and maybe a terms sheet or maybe a contract or if not feasible we let you know

Dewey — RAAC would be exhausting

Steve — we will get this done before New Year

Ina — get it done or set procedure, 11/12 meeting at BHRSD works

Dewey — you will also get us a proposal on tuition before next meeting

Rich — looking at tuition agreement

Dewey — successful outcome is everyone is happy, boiling that down

Rich — needs more discussion on our side

Dewey — what's value for BHRSD in doing

Rich — financial impact, invested heavily in admin, want to maintain one of best superintendents in state, defray some costs, tuition agreement good financially and culturally, synergy, supports your kids transition well, has been a good relationship, shared services can be wonky from a governance and financial standpoint

Steve — historically good relationship, more reasons to continue than not to, with geography cut down it makes more sense

Rich —roadmap, we get back to you by 11/16 with specific terms if it's an up

Dewey — next RCS meeting is 11/10, we meet 2nd Tuesday of each month, we could meet in between as needed

Dewey — open for public comment

Lauren — is the only thing being pursued a 3 year shared services contract?

Dewey — question to hammer out

Dewey — motion to adjourn at 6:07, Adeline second, unanimous

Steve — motion to adjourn, Rich second, unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 6:08pm