

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION GUIDANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 5, 2016
SILVA CONFERENCE ROOM, FLYNN BUILDING

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM.

In attendance: D. Manjarrez, M. Murphy-Rodrigues, L. Simon, D. Michaud, C. Hogan, I. Henningson, D. Keohane, A. Ramos.

Introductions made by each committee member.

Review of the committee mission statement. All members were reminded to be sworn in by town clerk.

An overview of the Sudbury-Minuteman relationship to date.

Note was made that Sudbury is one of six towns (Boxborough, Carlisle, Lincoln, Sudbury, Wayland, and Weston) departing the district with the possible addition of Belmont that has requested to leave the district after having voted disapproval of the new school building funding.

Belmont's funding disapproval combined with its request to leave the district initiated a 16(n) September 20, 2016, district wide ballot to approve funding among all member towns and to initiate Belmont's departure option. It was unclear whether Sudbury would participate in the popular vote and if so what position, if any, voters will be advised to take on that vote.

July 1, 2017, is the date on which all 6 departing towns will no longer be members of the district. All Departing towns' students have the option to complete their Minuteman vocation program and academic studies through graduation at Minuteman, or chose a different vocational school at which to complete their vocational program.

A member stated that some current MM student parents were not clear on the factors surrounding Sudbury leaving the Minuteman district. It was discussed and decided that current Curtis Middle School parents and students as well as current Minuteman parents should be contacted by letter and/or email to bring them up to date on Sudbury's departure and the vocational education options available to them.

The SPS and Curtis Middle school representatives volunteered to write the contact/update information to the parents and students. For the next school year (SY 2017), Curtis 8th graders and Sudbury's Minuteman 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students must be made aware of their vocation school options.

Withdrawal from Minuteman District discussion: There were a combination of factors that included the high cost of the new school building for a shrinking enrollment; the

reduction in Minuteman vocational program offerings; the school being allowed to fall into disrepair; the poor decisions made by Minuteman's leaders.

While Town Meeting voted to leave the MM district, the new school funding warrant article was passed over.

The Curtis committee member noted that Sudbury 8th graders that visited MM were unimpressed by the condition of the school and were drawn to L-S's better appearance and general condition.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To select a new school for Sudbury choosing among Assabet Valley Tech, Nashoba Valley Tech, and perhaps Keefe Tech in Framingham now called South Middlesex Tech.

Decide on the funding source for education and transportation.

The most effective transportation strategy over 3 years leading up to district membership at the vocational school or schools selected. The eventual transportation strategy may include coordinating with other departing towns such as Lincoln and Wayland.

It was noted that the VEOC RECOMMENDED to the Sudbury BOS that Assabet provided the best vocational education options for our students.

To attend the target school(s) under an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) in order to guarantee classroom seats for Sudbury students.

Sudbury would like to become a member of a vocational district in the future.

The CHOICE school option was mentioned and discussed in some detail as a possible option.

Len Simon and Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues were elected chair and vice-chairs of the committee, respectively.

Len Simon stated a 5 member quorum was required to conduct a public committee meeting.

The committee decided to hold its next meeting Monday, July 11, 2016, at 3:00 PM in the Flynn Building's Silva Room. The chair intends to hold individual meeting to one hour if possible. When school starts in the fall it was mentioned and acknowledge that the 3:00 PM meeting start time must be changed to accommodate committee members' that teach and/or counsel students. The chair hopes the committee's work is completed by November.

Adjournment at 4:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Dave Manjarrez