

Minutes of NRSD Regional Agreement Committee 10.3.22

Attending by Zoom: Sharon Carlson Poch (Lancaster rep, NRSC), Brian Boyle (Bolton Advisory), Leah Vivirito (Stow rep; NRSC chair), Ellen Sturgis (Stow Selectboard); Guest: Superintendent Kirk Downing.

Leah brought meeting to order at 7:02 with a quorum present.

The goal of this evening's review is to have another draft (dated October 2022) to present to DESE, after a review by the District counsel.

WORK TO DATE: Leah has met with DESE representatives- some of the changes they requested were structural and she summarized them quickly (formatting, organization of sections). DESE suggests we present a summary of changes when we present to the Towns.

TIMELINE: Leah presented a timeline which has a target public hearing at SC of 10/26, and a goal of having it ready for town warrants by the end of January. It will need to be signed off by DESE before going for town votes. Leah will send an invite to Town Administrators, Fincomms and Selectboards to attend the public hearing. Ellen suggested we may need to do other informational sessions before town meeting.

COMPOSITION: Section II.

- Part A: In order to cap size of committee, we would have to amend to weighted voting—not going to do this at this time.
- Part B: Population will be determined by federal census (not town census) every 10 years.
- Part D: Beginning of term changed to June organizational meeting: WILL NEED TO CONFER WITH COUNSEL ON THIS. Doesn't line up with Stow Charter (and perhaps other towns)

SCHOOL BUILDINGS Section V

- Part D: Emergency Building Use. Clarified that emergency will be determined by Superintendent or their designee.

BUDGET Section VI

No change in voting; we chose not to add an alternative assessment method. Currently, if the budget doesn't pass, the District goes to a 1/12 budget based on the last approved (previous year's) budget until a new budget is approved by 2 of 3 towns.

APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS Section VII

[Article B notes foundation enrollment figures: are we changing this?]

Article C, section 1: no change. Leaving \$10K

Article C, section 2: no change

INCURRING OF DEBT Section VIII

Power to incur debt: We will add language that illustrates state law gives SC authority under Subsection d of MGL c 71 section 16. We won't use the 2% previously proposed. Need towns to understand the State has set how the SC can incur debt. Section d notes that the towns have 60 days to call a special town meeting to stop the issuance of debt.

TRANSPORTATION Section IX

After deduction of any state reimbursement, transportation costs will be apportioned as an operating cost.

No further changes noted. All will be reviewed by counsel this week before being sent back to DESE for their input.

No further business being required, the committee adjourned by unanimous roll call at 8:15pm

Notes provided by Ellen Sturgis, Stow representative