

Chaplin Board of Education
Hampton Board of Education
Scotland Board of Education
Regional School District 11 Board of Education
Joint Boards of Education Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2015
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Chaplin Elementary School
Chaplin, CT 06235

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Steve Dunn at 7:01 PM. Present were Chaplin BOE members John Bolduc, Jaclyn Chancey, Will Hooper, and Jamie Spalding; Hampton BOE members Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, and Ann Gruenberg; Scotland BOE members Steven Kurcinik, Brynn Lipstreu, Rodney Perry, and Sherry Smardon; and RD11 BOE members Kate Donnelly, Steve Dunn, Sally Ireland, Jennifer Nelson, and Kathy O'Callaghan.

2. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS

- First selectmen of the three towns submitted official results of the exit poll:
 - Chaplin: 84 expand; 124 dissolve; 80 status quo
 - Hampton: 95 expand; 256 dissolve; 92 status quo
 - Scotland: 38 expand; 183 dissolve; 39 status quo
- Several citizens indicated that there was no need for a survey after the exit poll
 - Selectmen not sure they can fund the survey
- Survey feedback:
 - Confusing
 - Complicated because requirements and process are complicated
 - Does not list dissolve as one of the options
 - Choice of PK-8 in towns and tuition out high school only in regionalization
 - Cooperative only listed in “status quo”
- Other comments:
 - Other towns have K-8 schools with no problems.
 - Parish Hill not good value for money
 - K-8 schools should not be regionalized – town identity
 - Closing Parish Hill should be priority; other issues can be addressed later
 - Keep Parish Hill: small towns cost more per person; small school preferable; will lose more people if lose Parish Hill

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

COSTS

Has not met since last four boards meeting. Compiling list of districts without high schools; will be requesting information on grade 7-8 services/format. Will also be requesting cost estimates for grade 7-8 programs from each of the three towns. Question: Who is paying for letters to other districts and the survey?

SURVEY

- There had been an open question about whether regionalizing PK-8 would allow the RD11 board to close an elementary school. **NO:** School closure would have to be included in the plan and referendum. Including this information on survey to combat misinformation.
- Question posed: should recommendations of previous report (regionalization PK-12 or PK-8) be included on the survey?
 - Members agreed that link to report good, but not to include recommendations
- Survey will include more nimble options like shared services, cooperative agreements, as well as option to regionalize PK-8 while closing Parish Hill, all of which were absent from the exit poll.
- In order to implement *either* the study recommendations or the exit poll vote, a year-long study and then referendum will be needed. Survey can prepare for those.
 - Chaplin did not achieve 50% for dissolution on exit poll, and referendum will have to get majority in each of the three towns.
- Concern about the survey being too complex, but still also wanting to ensure that people know the process required for each of the options.
 - Suggestion made to switch columns on the 2nd page
 - Suggestion made to go to rating scale instead of yes/no
- Need information about the number of people who should receive the survey so that they can make determinations about funding.
 - Decision to go with paper surveys for security (one per voter)

SHARED SERVICES

No update

4. DISCUSSION OF EXIT POLL RESULTS

- Noted that Scotland and Hampton BOEs have not yet discussed
- Concern about language in the exit poll options:
 - No distinction between regionalization and shared services/cooperative agreements
 - Status quo was option when selectmen have stated that it really isn't an option financially
- Pay attention to what the survey showed and consider as we move forward
- Also recognize that there were concerns of misinformation and incomplete information

5. PLANNING NEXT STEPS

Cost, survey, and shared services committees to meet.
Shared services awaiting information requested from schools.

6. FORMAT AND PROTOCOL FOR POSTING FUTURE MEETINGS AGENDAS

The host BOE chair is responsible for meeting posting date and time and agenda; arranging minutes; posting minutes.

Steve Dunn will forward email list to all BOE chairs to use for posting agendas.

7. FORMAT AND PROTOCOL FOR APPROVAL AND POSTING OF MINUTES

Add agenda item to next meeting for approval of past minutes.

8. PLAN TIME, DATE, PLACE AND AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

December 17, 7 PM, Parish Hill
Standard agenda

9. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS

- Question about timeline for survey
- Rep. Doug Dubitsky (R-47): Constituents concerned about (1) cost; (2) value of education for cost; (3) school choice. School choice not included in survey
- Multiple pushes to move forward toward referendum; concern that if the exit poll had come back differently the boards would be acting more quickly

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.