Meeting Summary

In attendance: Dick Brown, Alan Cahill, Steve Dunn, Joan Fox, Kenneth Henrici, Phoebe Huang, Eric Kemp, Jennifer Nelson, Joe Savino, William Smallwood, Erin Jones, Sherry Smardon, Dan Syme. Also in attendance were Rebecca Augur and Mike Zuba from Milone and MacBroom, Inc. and Dr. Frank Sippy.

The meeting began with a tour of Parish Hill High School led by Superintendent Henrici. Next, First Selectman Syme reiterated the mission of the Working Group is to present a few alternative operational structures for the schools to the Selectmen to take back to their respective communities for further consideration. The Working Group is not making any final decisions. Rather, their work is just the first step in a lengthy process that must involve all the communities.

The consultants discussed regionalization and school consolidation efforts in Region 12 and Region 6 to provide context to the Working Group’s efforts.

Cooperative agreements are statutorily enabled, and only two exist in the State: East Lyme-Salem and Plainfield-Sterling. Both stemmed from high school renovation/construction projects and the desire to share costs. Estimates of how a cooperative agreement might look in Region 11 were presented, and included consolidation of an elementary school.

Differences between cooperative agreements and regionalization were discussed.

The consultants reviewed information on regional school districts in the State: locations, grade organization, school/district size, and board of education composition. There are no PK-8 regional school districts in the State at this time.

The consultants reviewed information on designated high schools, the statutory requirement for them, examples of tuition agreements, summary information on 2012-13 tuitions, and a couple of options for how a regional PK-8 district may look in Region 11.