

Meeting to Discuss Long-Range Planning within the Amity Regional School District

December 5, 2013

Amity Regional High School

5:30 p.m.

Agenda

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| 1. Introductions | John Brady |
| 2. Background and Purpose of the Meeting | John Brady/Derry Gorski |
| 3. Information on Connecticut State Department of Education study regarding small school districts | Sheila McCreven |
| 4. Information on regional school district reconfiguration studies | Ron Harris |
| 5. Discussion | All |
| 6. Next Steps | AI |
| a. Funding if Expanded Study Proceeds? | |

First:
Do an informal
computation
of cost/benefit
Preliminary study

SUMMARY OF REGIONALIZATION PROCESS FOR THE ADDITION OR WITHDRAWAL OF GRADES

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 10-47b. Addition or Withdrawal of Grades

Formal Study Committee

how is
Chairman
chosen? self selected
from among
membership

Chair
pick their
members

1. Membership of Committee
 - One regional board member from each town
 - One local board member from each town
 - One fiscal authority member from each town
2. Consultant
 - Appointed by the Commissioner of Education
3. Duration
 - The Committee shall submit its report with one year of the date of its organizational meeting.
4. Expenses of the Committee
 - The regional school district shall pay the expenses of the Committee which shall not exceed three dollars times the number of pupils in average daily membership of such town and regional school districts as defined in Section 10-261. - this counts 2 districts?
5. Procedure if Expansion is Confirmed
 - If the vote at referenda held pursuant to Section 10-45 in each member town affirms the expansion, the town boards of education shall be dissolved in accordance with Section 10-46a.
 - Pursuant to Section 10-46a, the transfer of authority shall occur within two years.
6. Procedure if Expansion is not Confirmed
 - If the vote at referenda held pursuant to Section 10-45 is not affirmative in all member towns, but is affirmative in a majority of towns, those towns voting in the affirmative may initiate a study pursuant to Sections 10-39 to 10-45, inclusive, to establish a district which administers all educational programs provided in such towns.
 - The procedures for withdrawal of a town or the dissolution of a regional school district need not be used.
 - If a second regional district is established by referenda, the first regional district is dissolved. - #5
 - The State Board of Education shall make determinations required for the dissolution of the first regional school district.
 - If a secondary school is among the assets so transferred to the new regional school district, the district shall accept student from the remaining towns on a tuition basis for at least three years.

Attorney Ronald C. Harris
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Sec. 10-47b. Addition or withdrawal of grades. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any regional school district which does not include all elementary and secondary grades may add or withdraw grades in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) or, if applicable, subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(1) Any regional board of education in a school district which does not include all elementary and secondary school grades may recommend a study of the advisability of the addition to or withdrawal of grades from the regional school district or, upon the request of two or more of the town boards of education of the member towns, shall recommend such a study to the chairmen of the town boards of education and chairmen of the boards of finance or other such fiscal authorities in each town affected. Within thirty days of receipt of such recommendation, such chairmen shall each appoint one of the members of their boards and the chairman of the regional board of education shall appoint one member of the regional board from each member town to a study committee. The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a consultant to the study committee. The study committee shall proceed in the same manner as the temporary regional school study committee except that the expenses of the committee shall be borne by the regional school district and shall not exceed three dollars times the number of pupils in average daily membership of such town and regional school districts as defined in section 10-261 and the committee shall submit its report to the participating towns no later than one year from the date of its organizational meeting. If the committee recommends a plan for addition to or withdrawal of grades from the regional school district and the referenda held in the manner provided in section 10-45 result in an affirmative vote in the regional school district as a whole, the participating towns shall implement the plan.

(2) Any regional board of education in a school district which does not include all elementary and secondary school grades and has a total of three member towns, each with a population between three thousand and seven thousand five hundred persons pursuant to subdivision (27) of section 10-262f and a combined population for such towns of at least ten thousand persons, but fewer than twenty thousand persons may recommend and develop a plan for the addition to or withdrawal of grades from the regional school district or, upon the request of two or more of the town boards of education of the member towns, may make such recommendation and develop such a plan. If the regional board of education recommends a plan for addition to or withdrawal of grades from the regional school district, referenda shall be held in the manner provided in section 10-45. If such referenda results in an affirmative vote in the regional school district as a whole, the participating towns shall implement the plan.

(b) The procedures in subsection (a) of this section shall not be used to dissolve a regional school district, but may be used to empower the regional school district to administer all programs which are provided in the member towns and are under the general supervision and control of the State Board of Education. In such case, if the vote in each member town affirms the expansion, the town boards of education in such member towns shall be dissolved in accordance with section 10-46a. If the vote is not affirmative in all the member towns, but is affirmative in a majority of such towns, the towns voting in favor of such expansion may initiate a study of the feasibility of establishing a regional school district to administer all programs which are provided in such towns and are under the general supervision and control of the State Board of Education. Such study shall be initiated and conducted pursuant to sections 10-39 through 10-45. In such case, the study may be made forthwith without

using the procedures for withdrawal of a town or dissolution of a regional school district provided in sections 10-63a through 10-63c. If a second regional school district is so established by referendum, the first regional school district shall be dissolved. The State Board of Education shall make the relevant determinations required by section 10-63c for such dissolution of an existing regional school district. The assets apportioned to the member towns of the new regional school district may be transferred directly to said district. If secondary schools are among the assets so transferred to the new regional district, said district shall accept applications from the remaining school districts for admission of secondary students for a tuition based on per pupil cost for a period of at least three years after the dissolution. The State Board of Education may withhold from the next grant paid pursuant to section 10-262i to the town or regional school districts so established an amount equal to the proportionate share to be borne by each such district of the cost of the services rendered by said state board during the dissolution of the regional school district.

(1969, P.A. 698, S. 11; 1971, P.A. 679, S. 2; P.A. 77-614, S. 302, 610; P.A. 79-128, S. 33, 36; P.A. 89-124, S. 9, 13; P.A. 08-169, S. 23.)

History: 1971 act amended Subsec. (b) to add provisions concerning establishment of regional district by towns voting affirmatively in referendum on expansion when affirmative vote is not unanimous; P.A. 77-614 substituted commissioner of education for secretary of the state board of education, effective January 1, 1979; P.A. 79-128 substituted "pupils in average daily membership ... as defined in section 10-261" for "pupils used to compute the grants ... pursuant to section 10-262" in Subsec. (a) and substituted Sec. "10-262c" for Sec. "10-262" in Subsec. (b); P.A. 89-124 in Subsec. (b) substituted reference to Sec. 10-262i for reference to Sec. 10-262c which was repealed by Sec. 8 of public act 88-358; P.A. 08-169 amended Subsec. (a) to add language re districts that do not include all grades, designate existing provisions as Subdiv. (1) and add Subdiv. (2) re alternate procedure to add or withdraw grades, effective July 1, 2008.

Cited. 169 C. 613. Cited. 187 C. 187. Cited. 195 C. 24.

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Sec. 10-47c. Amendment of plan. With the exception of the terms which pertain to the capital contribution of member towns, the transfer of property to the regional school district, the grades included, the size of the board of education and the representation of each town on the board and the towns to be served by the regional school district, the terms of the plan approved through referendum pursuant to section 10-45 may be amended as follows: If a regional board of education finds it advisable to amend the plan or if the legislative body of a town served by the regional board of education requests amendment of such plan, the regional board of education shall prepare a report on the proposed amendment, including the question to be presented, file a copy with the Commissioner of Education and the clerk of each member town and make copies of such report available to the public at a district meeting called to present the plan. After such public hearing, the board shall set the date for referendum which shall be held simultaneously in each member town between the hours of six a.m. and eight p.m. At least thirty days before the date of the referendum, the regional board of education shall notify the town clerk in each member town to call the referendum on the specified date to vote on the specified question. The warning of such referendum shall be published, the vote taken and the results thereof canvassed and declared in the same manner as is provided for the

COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
C.G.S. Section 10-158a

*began as
SPED services*

1. Purpose: Two or more boards of education agree in writing to provide school accommodations services, programs or activities.
2. Supervision: May include the establishment of a Committee to supervise the programs with the power to
 - (a) apply for state or federal grants;
 - (b) receive and disburse funds appropriated to the use of the Committee;
 - (c) hold title to real or personal property;
 - (d) employ personnel;
 - (e) enter into contracts and
 - (f) otherwise provide the specified programs.
3. Withdrawal from Agreement: One year notice in writing. If school construction grant received, conditions apply regarding duration of use of the building and recapture provisions if discontinued use.
4. Program Concerns: Provision of high quality education by addressing
 - (a) curriculum – greater opportunities;
 - (b) pupils – wider breath of interests;
 - (c) administration – single body, accommodate growth, economies of scale;
 - (d) faculty – attraction, retention and specialized personnel;
 - (e) facilities – larger and improved;
 - (f) community interests – support, cultural center, preschool or nursery school programs and
 - (g) financing – affordability
5. Current Arrangements in Connecticut:
 - (a) Plainfield/Sterling High School Cooperative;
 - (b) East Lyme/Salem High School Cooperative;
 - (c) Regional School District No. 7 and member towns Shared Services Agreement;
 - (d) Project Oceanology; and
 - (e) Hartford and East of the River Magnet Middle Schools Project with participation from East Hartford, Glastonbury, Hartford, Manchester and South Windsor.

April 8, 2008