

Meeting Minutes

Vocational Education Options Working Group (VEOWG)

January 25, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Peter Braun, *Selectman*

Laura Sander, *Finance Committee*

Patty Mostue, *Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee*

Becky McFall, *Superintendent – Lincoln Schools*

Tim Higgins, *Town Administrator*

Mr. Higgins convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and introduced the VEOWG. Mr. Higgins then reviewed the agenda for the meeting which was focused on completing the three sections of the intended report: 1) The Frequently Asked Questions document 2) the educational quality assessment matrix, and 3) the financial comparison spreadsheet. The VEOWG also heard a report on the site visit to Nasoba Valley Technical High School.

FAQ Document Draft

The Working Group agreed that the FAQ would benefit from a different, and more consolidated reformatting. Mr. Braun agreed to attempt to convert the document into a bulleted format. The Group also discussed the need to keep making refinements to ensure that the document reports on the options in an objective fashion.

Educational Quality Matrix

Ms. Mostue presented the updated draft matrix which was approximately 90% complete. All that was missing was a few data points from South Middlesex/Keefe Technical High School. Superintendent McFall agreed to e-mail the matrix to her counterpart at Keefe with a request to provide the missing data.

Cost Comparisons

Mr. Higgins and Ms. Sander updated the Board on their work to create a cost comparison model. The Group agreed that the most reliable data and comparisons are available for FY 16 and for FY 20. It was agreed that the FY 17 data was not meaningful as it was calculated under the formulas contained in the current Regional Agreement.

Public Outreach

- *Postcard Mailing* – The Group agreed to send out a postcard in advance of the public forum on February 11th, urging attendance at the forum, with a reference to the information available on the town web page.
- *Town-wide Mailing* – The Group agreed to send out the revised/reformatted FAQ and related materials as a town-wide mailing shortly after the February 11th forum, in preparation for the February 23rd Special Town Meeting.

Visits to Other Schools

- Several members of the VEOWG took part in a January 21st site visit to Nashoba Valley Technical High School. The subgroup's notes on its visit are available on the Town webpage. In summary, the subgroup was highly impressed with the School's leadership, faculty, student body, curriculum and facilities. The Group was confident that it could recommend Nashoba as a high-quality technical high school option.
- Visits are scheduled to Assabet on January 27th and to Keefe on February 5th.
- Superintendent McFall agreed to also attempt to schedule a site visit to Minuteman.

Meeting Schedule

Mr. Higgins agreed to send out an e-mail confirming the meeting schedule – with February 2nd (6:15 p.m. as the next meeting date). The VEOWG is still holding to the February 8th date for a presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.