

Meeting Minutes

Vocational Education Options Working Group (VEOWG)

February 2, 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 6:15 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 Assabet Valley Technical High School, and confirmed meeting dates for February 5th visit to Keefe Tech, and for a February 8th tour of Minuteman.

FAQ Document Draft

Mr. Braun reviewed the revised FAQ, now in a more consolidated/bulleted format. The Group spent considerable time discussing the financial section and which set of figures to use for purposes of baseline comparisons. The Group decided to use the FY 20 figures presented by Minuteman, with the exception of not using Minuteman's projected 4-year rolling average enrollment for FY 16-19 (7) as the expected number of students in FY 20. Instead the Group decided to use an enrollment figure of 5 which is consistent with the Town's historic average, and consistent with Minuteman's projected enrollment for Lincoln in FY 20. The Group voted to approve the FAQ for posting and distribution, subject to a few final revisions.

Educational Quality Matrix

Ms. Mostue presented the updated draft matrix which was now, with the addition of the South Middlesex/Keefe Technical High School information, complete. The Group voted to approve the matrix for posting and distribution.

Cost Comparisons

Mr. Higgins and Ms. Sander reviewed the cost comparison model. The Group confirmed its decision to use the FY 16 and for FY 20 date for comparisons. It was agreed that the FY 17 data was not meaningful as it was calculated under the formulas contained in the current Regional Agreement. The FY 20 comparisons will be based on a Lincoln enrollment of 5 as discussed above.

Public Forum

The Group developed an initial outline for the presentations for the February 11th Public Forum:

Basic Overview & Background	Peter Braun	
Financial Considerations	Laura Sander	
Educational Comparisons	Becky McFall & Patty Mostue	Patty will be unavailable for the forum but will participate in STM presentation
Status Reports from Town Boards & Committees	TBD	BOS, Finance, and Capital Planning will update on their review and any recommendations
Next Steps	Tim Higgins	Confirm actions leading up to the STM on February 23 rd

Outreach

- *Postcard Mailing* – The postcard announcing the February 11th Public Forum will go out this week (week of February 1st). The postcard urges 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.
- The Group discussed the Town of Wayland’s objections to Minuteman’s postcard mailing which Wayland officials found misleading and in contradiction to a previous vote of the School Committee instructing the Superintendent not to engage with the communities around the Regional Agreement Amendments but instead to focus his energies on the building project. The Group agreed to forward an objection to the Minuteman School Committee and to request that the Superintendent be instructed not to send out such a mailing in Lincoln.

Visits to Other Schools

- Several members of the VEOWG took part in a January January 27th site visit to Assabet 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 Assabet as a high-quality technical high school option. The Superintendent stated that he believed that

Assabet would have the capacity to accept Lincoln's students should the Town elect to withdraw from Minuteman.

- Visits are scheduled to Keefe Tech on February 5th and to Minuteman on February 8th.

Meeting Schedule

Mr. Higgins agreed to send out an e-mail confirming the meeting schedule – with February 8nd (6:00 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 7:30 p.m.