



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 203 & VIA
GOOGLE MEET
AUGUST 15, 2023

7:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 203

Chairman Kimberley Emberg called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 7:11 PM—selectmen in attendance: Donald Alcombright, Sheila Vaughn, Tyler Bouchard, and Eric Crone.

Staff Present: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator; Patricia Tucker, Assistant to the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen.

Attend Silver Lake School Committee

Dore and Whittier Presentation – Central Office discussion

This item is for the discussion of a new administration building. Mr. Jason Fraser of the school committee discussed that a new building could cost 7.5 million to 10 million dollars.

Ms. Vaughn asked about the options for space at the middle school for the Administration.

Superintendent Jill Proulx stated that the original study for this option was done several years old before Matt Durkee, and the size of the needs in this plan is more forward thinking.

Mr. Crone added that one of the reasons he didn't like the middle school was due to visitors in and out of the school, so the middle school would not be a great fit.

Don Walter and Ron Lemar from Dore and Whittier shared their screen and provided a presentation.

Mr. Jason Fraser of Plympton stated that they are not looking to do this next year; they are just discussing the next steps.

Mr. Hickey asked, since they are thinking outside of the box, if the school committees discussed regionalizing all schools and what the cost savings might be.

Ms. Paula Hatch discussed DESE and asked why we are not regionalized also, and that she has been on school committees for about 18 years and sat through two attempts of this, and each experience was met with resistance.

Mr. Hickey suggested to the Superintendent that there are Community Compact Grants that allow for improving a number of things, including regionalizing schools. He suggested going for a grant to hire a firm to do a study to see if there is an opportunity to give the information to the communities. At some point, we need to see the pros and cons so everyone knows.

Regional Agreement Update

Ms. Paula Hatch discussed that the current agreement had existed since 1951 when it was a four Town district. Governing Document legalizes comingling the students from grades 7-12 without mentioning a pre-kindergarten program. The current pre-k program operates as though they are regionalized, and she is unsure why they operate in this fashion. The options provided by DESE are to dismember the program, separate the programs to each town or add it to the current agreement.

Ms. Hatch discussed that she feels the best option would be to incorporate the Pre-K program into the regional agreement. The updated agreement was provided online, and the red-lined agreement can be provided if requested.

The schools' attorney went through the changes, which are that all three towns must agree to the terms for the agreement to take effect, and it must be completed by December 31 and written into the agreement.

Ms. Paula Hatch discussed that they will have another meeting to discuss this.

Traffic Light – Letters of Support from Three Towns

Mr. Jason Fraser thanked the Board of Selectmen for allowing him to join a previous meeting to discuss this and thanked Paul Basler for his help as well.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, seconded by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

August 29, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen