



SHARED SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 27, 2018
Seymour Middle School
6:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 3/1/18
TIME: 3:00pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Edward Hendricks
Jennifer Magri

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent - Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:01 p.m.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Wilson asked for nominations for the Chairperson of the Shared Services Committee

Dr. Hendricks nominated Jen Magri

Votes:

Jen Magri - 2 yes/0 no

Ms. Magri was appointed chairperson of the Shared Services Committee

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Current Shared Services

Ms. Magri said she would like to develop a list of current shared services.

1. Facilities Manager (split with Town of Seymour)
2. Systemwide Technology Coordinator (split with Town of Seymour)
3. CREC Consortium – this is a buying consortium for supplies and services. There is a \$50 cost to belong.
4. Alliance Consortium – this is a consortium for the purchase of electricity. It is on a five year cycle. The town and BOE are partners in this consortium
5. Transportation Contracts and Propane Filling Station – Seymour purchased propane buses last year and there will be a propane filling station installed in Seymour. There is a potential to share the filling station with other area districts as they purchase propane buses. Mr. Wilson said Ansonia and Derby are on the last year of a three year contract. Now would be a good time to approach them. Dr. Hendricks asked about reaching out to Valley Transit regarding the filling station. Mr. Belden said it might be a good thing for municipal vehicles also.
6. Diesel/Oil/Gasoline Consortium – Both the town and the BOE are participating in the current consortium.
7. Special Education Services – What can be combined with neighboring towns and shared?

8. Busing – Currently we share transportation with Oxford for students attending the Sound School. The bus company makes the determination of where students will be picked up. Currently working with Hamden to try and share transportation to Soundbridge. It is our current practice to try and share transportation whenever it is feasible. Dr. Boyle is good with networking when we have an outplaced student and gets information on other area students who attend in case there is an opportunity to share transportation.
9. Large Equipment Purchases – Mr. Belden said he would like to see Towns purchase large pieces of equipment together so we can get a discounted price.
10. Technology Purchases – IT Directors meet regularly and would like to be able to do volume buying when it is feasible. Volume purchasing is always advantageous.
11. Textbooks - Mr. Wilson said it is difficult to purchase textbooks because many districts use different textbooks but said he thought it would be worth throwing it out there to find out what people are buying.
12. Human Resources, Payroll – Consolidate with Town of Seymour. This is something that is being talked about. Mr. Belden said we can start having conversations about this. But the dynamics can change. Payroll and Accounts Payable use the same software system but this is not easy to meld. There are differences between the Town and the Board of Education.
13. Ms. Magri said she felt that it would be a good thing for Seymour to be a leader in the Valley to have these types of conversations. The sharing of information is showing strength.
14. Substitutes – Ms. Magri said she knows some towns use Kelly Services for substitute teachers, this is something that we should research.
15. Paraprofessionals – Some towns outsource paraprofessionals. Ms. Magri said she is not saying we should do this but it is something that we should research. We should look at anything that we can combine with other towns to have strength in numbers.
16. Union contracts – Mr. Belden said we need to look into how we can change Union Contracts without running into problems such as impact bargaining. Ms. Magri asked if CASBO was looking into this and Mr. Belden said they are not.
17. Virtual Classes – We offer virtual classes to our students and students who are interested would work with their guidance counselor to investigate what is offered.
18. Shared Services – Fire Department and Police Department
19. Mr. Wilson said he felt towns should be looking at this also for purchasing large items such as police vehicles and fire trucks.
20. Emergency Services - Tom Eighmie and Rich Kearns work together on many projects
21. Cooperative Athletics - Ms. Magri said there are many things that we share currently and gave the example of wrestling. We don't have a wrestling team but if we have students interested in wrestling we can send them to participate at a neighboring town school. We do the same with other towns who have kids who want to swim.

Ms. Magri said we need to look at this list. We may find there is nothing that makes sense to share but we need to take a look. Dr. Hendricks said it is about how we can help the kids; we don't want to lose services. Mr. Wilson agreed, he said what we do must benefit the kids. Dr. Hendricks said he feels we have a lot of good things going on in the district and asked how do we get the word out to the public? Ms. Magri said there is an appetite in Seymour to do these types of things; the First Selectman and the Board of Selectmen is on the same path. She said after we have the minutes for this meeting, hopefully people will better understand the process for this Committee. She feels the next step will be to start asking other towns if they are interested. It may be a good idea to take our list to Ansonia and see what types of things they want/need. It could be after this process that their wants/needs are completely different from ours. She said we need to understand when contracts are due and if we can coordinate them. Mr. Belden said we can co-term contracts so we can coordinate with other towns and phase in with Seymour contracts. Ms. Magri suggested putting together a list just to get this information out to the public and we will have to figure out how to sell this program. Ms. Magri asked Mr. Wilson to reach out to the other Valley Superintendents.

- B. Potential Future Shared Services
Included in discussion IV A above.

V. REPORTS

- A. Chairperson Report
None
- B. Superintendent Report
None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Ms. Magri) to adjourn

AFFIRMATIVE: Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

SO VOTED

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk