

**Committee to Study Dissolution
Regional School District No. 11
Minutes of the Meeting of January 3, 2018**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Nick Brown, Clare D’Appollonio, Stephanie Harrington, Jennifer Nelson, Rose Bisson, Matthew Venhorst, William Hooper

Absent: Cesar Beltran, Bettina Bronisz, William Fazioli, Steven Kurcinik

II. Audience for Citizens

None

III. Review and Approval of Draft Paragraph Explaining Vote Per C.G.S. Sec. 10-43

Mr. Venhorst explained that Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 10-43 requires that, if the committee finds dissolution to be inadvisable, the Committee’s report include “findings and an explanation of the reasons for its conclusions.” The Committee discussed this requirement and settled on the following language for insertion in the Committee’s final report:

The Committee believes at this time that there is insufficient evidence of cost savings presented to justify dissolution of the district. While declining student enrollment is a concern, the evidence gathered by the Committee reveals that Parish Hill offers a positive educational experience for students and families. The Committee also believes that schooling alternatives available in the event of dissolution would be accompanied by significant costs, and that dissolution would be highly disruptive to students.

Ms. D’Appollonio moved, and Mr. Hooper seconded, that the above language be used and added to the report:

Committee members voted as follows:

Yes: Ms. Bisson, Mr. Brown, Ms. D’Appollonio, Ms. Harrington, Mr. Hooper, Ms. Nelson

No: None

Abstain: Mr. Venhorst

IV. Review and Approval of Final Report for Submission to the State

The Committee reviewed the draft report and the appendices. Ms. D'Appollonio moved, and Mr. Hooper seconded, that the Committee adopt the report with the addition of the language outlined in Section III of this Agenda for submission to the Towns and the State Board of Education.

Committee Members voted as follows:

Yes: Ms. Bisson, Mr. Brown, Ms. Harrington, Mr. Hooper, Ms. Nelson

No: None

Abstain: Ms. D'Appollonio, Mr. Venhorst

V. Next Steps

The Committee agreed that Mr. Venhorst would send Ms. Nelson via email the language to which the Committee Agreed in Section III of this Agenda, and that Ms. Nelson would compile the final report with appendices. Ms. Nelson indicated that she would submit the final report/appendices to the State Board of Education and the Towns mid-week during the week of January 8, 2018.

Ms. Nelson opened up to meeting for public participation. One member of the public expressed the view that dissenting members of the Committee should state in writing why they dissented, and further stated that issue of dissolution should go to referendum regardless of the Committee's vote. Another member of the public expressed his view that dissolution would have resulted in significant cost savings and that the State should pay more money to the towns within the region.

VI. Adjourn

Ms. D'Appollonio moved, and Mr. Hooper seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.