

## **Committee to Study Dissolution**

### **Regional School District No. 11**

#### **Minutes of the Meeting of October 23, 2017**

##### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Present: **Cesar Beltran, Stephanie Harrington, Jennifer Nelson, Steven Kurcinik, Rose Bisson, Nick Brown, Matthew Venhorst, Bettina Bronisz (for Sheree Mailhot), William Hooper (for John Bolduc)**

Absent: Clare D'Appollonio, William Fazioli,

##### **II. Discussion of Update of Information from 2009 Study**

###### **a. Opinion from Halloran and Sage re: title to property**

Ms. Nelson reported that she had spoken to Attorney Roberts from the law firm of Halloran and Sage regarding the opinion letter he had drafted regarding the property implications of dissolution for inclusion in the 2009 Dissolution Committee Report. The Committee discussed whether this letter needed to be updated for the current report. Ms. Nelson reported that Attorney Roberts had indicated that the opinion rendered in the prior report may no longer be valid because a 30-year time limit had expired, which would affect the treatment of the school district's property in the event of dissolution. Discussion ensued regarding whether Attorney Roberts should be engaged and whether any dollar limitation should be placed on the scope of the engagement.

Mr. Kurcinik moved, and Mr. Brown seconded, that Attorney Roberts be engaged to update his opinion letter from the prior Dissolution report and to render an opinion on the status of the Parish Hill property in the event of dissolution. The motion passed unanimously.

###### **b. Opinion from Office of Legislative Research**

Ms. Nelson reported on a report, dated September 18, 2017, from the Office of Legislative Research (OLR), which reviewed the issue of what would happen if a town that is part of a regional school district dissolves. Ms. Nelson reported that the OLR report expressed uncertainty as to what would happen in such circumstances.

###### **c. Cost Comparison**

Ms. Nelson distributed a chart containing information about the responses from area districts about receiving Region 11 students in the event of dissolution. Discussion ensued regarding

whether certain information should be included or excluded in the chart. Ms. Nelson responded that she would update the chart to reflect the comments of Committee members.

The Committee discussed the fact that, if the school district is dissolved, grade 7 and 8 students would need to be educated and would not be the responsibility of the local boards of education. This information will be included in the materials that Ms. Nelson prepares.

#### **d. Enrollment**

The Committee discussed various sources of enrollment information that was available to the public.

#### **e. Other**

Mr. Brown reported that he would recap changes to Section 8 of the Report at the Committee's next meeting.

### **III. Next Steps**

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held on November 13 at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hill library.

### **IV. Audience for Citizens**

A member of the public commented that the Committee's report should address the State's uncertain budget situation. The member further commented that other districts are seeking students and offering incentives – such as free transportation – to school districts willing to send students.

### **V. Adjourn**

William Hooper moved, and Mr. Brown seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.