

1 **RED Study Committee**
2 **Essex High School Library – Essex Junction, VT**
3 **June 2, 2015**
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5

6 **Attendees:** Adam Sollace (EJ), Tom James (ET), Heidi Coppola (Westford), Linda Costello
7 (EJ), Gary Kling (ET), Marla Durham (EJ), Cathy Printon (ET), Kim Kedzierski (ET), Brendan
8 Kinney (ET), Jill Tarule (ET), Kim Gleason (ET), Brian Donahue (EJ), Tom Thompson (ET),
9 Bob Bouthillier (EJ), Martha Heath (Westford), Keeley Schell (EJ), Mitchell Stern (ET), and
10 Wes McClellan (EJ – arrived at 7:20 p.m.)
11

12 **Absent:** Samantha Gilliam (ET) and Amy Chess (EJ)
13

14 **Facilitator:** Brian O’Regan
15

16 **Others:** Mark Andrews (Essex Town Superintendent), Judith DeNova (CCSU
17 Superintendent), Ben Dickie (CCSU – Minutes), Al Bombardier, George Cormier, Roger
18 George, Grant Geisler, Rob Reardon, Vince Gonillo, Rachel Preston, Tim Jerman, and
19 Chris Leopold (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)
20

21 Brendan Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
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23 **Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2015**

24 *Martha Heath motioned to approve the minutes from May 19, 2015, Tom James*
25 *seconded the motion.*
26

27 Marla Durham asked to change ‘or’ to ‘nor’ on line 61 of the minutes.
28

29 *The motion passed unanimously with the change.*
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31 **Communications**

- 32 • Kim Kedzierski gave an update from the last meeting, which was held on
33 Thursday
- 34 • The task team developed a survey for the Study Committee to review
- 35 • The committee members offered feedback, which included always spelling out
36 RED due to the different levels of knowledge that the public will have around the
37 topic
- 38 • Martha Heath also volunteered to join the Communications Task Team
- 39 • There were discussions of how the survey would be distributed
- 40 • Heart & Soul of Essex has an email list that can be used
- 41 • Since Westford residents wouldn’t be part of that list, the survey could also be
42 shared on Front Porch Forum as well as on all CCSU and ETSD school websites
43

44 **Financial Presentation and Discussion**

- 45
- 46 • Brian O'Regan went through a [summary](#) of the potential new costs, reductions,
47 and an estimate of the potential total savings of forming a RED
 - 48 • He then introduced George Cormier, an independent consultant, who provided
49 financial analysis of four year and five year merger options, and implications
50 relative to expenditure, revenue and tax implications
 - 51 ○ These predictions are built off assumptions, so that this group can
52 compare numbers when attempting to forecast the future
 - 53 • George went through the [financial resources that he created](#), explaining each
54 and taking questions along the way
 - 55 • He explained how in a supervisory union, there are duplicated costs due to the
56 transferring of money back and forth
 - 57 ○ If each of the schools were under one umbrella, this would be eliminated
 - 58 • Many of the potential savings that could be realized, would be phased in over
59 time and not all be seen in year one
 - 60 • He showed a comparison between the one-year, four-year, and five-year
61 estimates
 - 62 • Martha Heath mentioned that she would like to see tax rates for people who pay
63 based on income as well as the Homestead property taxes
 - 64 • Once the tax incentives end, after year four or year five depending on the path
65 chosen, the new RED would still benefit from additional cost savings due to
66 efficiencies
 - 67 • The committee asked that graphs be created to show incentives applied to five
68 years of known expenditures and revenues
 - 69 • The committee members can send any concerns or questions around the
70 finances to Brian O'Regan and Brendan Kinney to help shape future
71 conversations
 - 72 • George added that one of the major takeaways from his research is that there
73 are opportunities for efficiency that could be seen by forming a RED

74 **Other**

- 75
- 76 • Brian mentioned that at the next meeting the committee would be going over a
77 simple draft of the articles of agreement with Chris Leopold, especially with all
78 the recent changes at the legislative level

79

80 **Next Meeting Date and Topic**

- 81
- 82 • Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.
 - 83 ○ Articles of Agreement
 - 84 ○ Legal Clarifications

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86 The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

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89 Respectfully submitted by Ben Dickie