

**RED Study Committee**  
**Essex High School Library – Essex Junction, VT**  
**August 13, 2015**

**Attendees:** Tom James (ET), Wes McClellan (EJ), Brendan Kinney (ET), Linda Costello (EJ), Marla Durham (EJ), Adam Sollace (EJ), Cathy Printon (ET), Amy Chess (EJ), Brian Donahue (EJ), Kim Gleason (ET), Jill Tarule (ET), Bob Bouthillier (EJ), Mitchell Stern (ET), Keeley Schell (EJ), and Tom Thompson (ET)

**Absent:** Heidi Coppola (Westford), Martha Heath (Westford), Kim Kedzierski (ET), Gary Kling (ET), and Samantha Gilliam (ET)

**Others:** Mark Andrews (Essex Town Superintendent), Judith DeNova (CCSU Superintendent), Chris Leopold, Liz Subin, and Ben Dickie (CCSU – Minutes)

Brendan Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Visitors to be Heard**

None

**Approval of Minutes from June 30**

*Brendan Kinney motioned to approve the minutes from June 30, 2015, Marla Durham seconded the motion. The motion passed, unanimously.*

- Marla Durham made a suggestion about including reasons for why some members were absent at the June 30 meeting
- Chris Leopold suggested listing these as ‘conflicting obligations’
- Kim Gleason mentioned that Rachel Preston was the alternate for Essex Town in her absence and Brendan Kinney thought that it should be noted
- Each of the absent members had previously expressed their support for the report

**Communications Update/Next Steps**

- Brendan Kinney highlighted the recent pieces that have appeared in the Essex Reporter and thanked the Communications Task Team who have worked hard to produce the content
- Keeley Schell gave an update on the Communications Task Team
  - There have been three pieces in the Essex Reporter so far, as the Task Team attempts to answer the questions received from the RED survey
  - The next one will be around finances

- Next steps include planning community engagement events to help answer questions and help explain why we made the decision that we did
  - Linda Costello mentioned that she would like to take part in the forums
- Marla Durham wondered if there could be a question and answer sheet that school board members could have with them when they attend open house at each of the schools in the month of September
- Mitchell Stern mentioned maybe attending the farmers market
- Marla Durham asked Chris Leopold about funds that could be used for promotional items
  - Chris said that you cannot use public funds, but you can seek private funds

### **Approval of the Vote Date Change**

- Brendan Kinney updated the committee about new information around the logistics of the date of the vote after communicating with the town clerks

*Brendan Kinney motioned to approve the date change of the vote in the report from November 10 to November 3, Tom James seconded the motion. The motion passed, unanimously.*

### **Status Update**

- Chris Leopold discussed next steps with the committee
  - The report produced by this committee was sent to the Agency of Education (AOE)
  - Representatives met with the AOE and had a very positive meeting and they have been reviewing the report in more detail
    - They requested more detailed information around the cost/benefit analysis
      - Judith DeNova sent the additional information that they requested
      - This can be included on the RED website
    - The second was a clarification, as the designation of districts will be made in 2016
  - Next steps
    - The AOE has prepared a recommendation of the report, as they believe it is in the best interest of the schools involved
    - A small group will attend a meeting of the State Board of Education on August 18 to represent the committee, where a decision will be made
    - This would be the first Act 46 merger considered by the State Board

Judith DeNova asked if we could amend the agenda to approve the minutes from this meeting so that the committee wouldn't have to meet again.

**Approval of Minutes from August 13, 2015**

*Kim Gleason motioned to approve the minutes from August 13, 2015, Linda Costello seconded the motion. The motion passed, unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Dickie