

## **NRHS Space Task Force Meeting**

December 10, 2015

Attendees: Bob Czekanski, Parry Graham, Mark Jones, Dave LeBlanc, Jody Specht, Kathy Codianne, Maureen Busch, Don Hawkes, Bill Cleary

Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes of prior meetings** – hard copies not available at this time, therefore no minutes to review/approve

**Choosing vendor for proposed demographic study.** There were 4 bids submitted in response to the revised request for proposals for an enrollment projection study. Only two of the bids were seriously considered by Bill, Bob, and Mark. After conference calls with those two bidders, they decided that they should recommend the bid by NESDEC to the Task Force to recommend to the School Committee.

Details of the NESDEC proposal:

- \$8740 (price reflects 20% member discount)
- Office in Marlboro (local and available)
- NRSD has a subscription w/ NESDEC – enrollment history
- Proposal indicates they will talk with town planners, local real estate brokers, developers, town administrators, etc., to determine unique factors influencing growth
- Provided samples (previous reports for similar projects) – good feedback from Hopkinton

Funds will be pulled from “somewhere” in FY16 money (Kathy Codianne questioned whether the money has been earmarked as coming from a particular line item.) Further clarification – we are recommending the study be done, and that it be done by the vendor we recommend, but the School Committee has to vote to have the study done and to spend the money.

David LeBlanc made a motion that the Task Force recommend the NESDEC proposal to Nashoba Regional School committee pursuant to their proposal dated 10/ 28/2015. Don Hawkes seconded the motion. Unanimous (8-0)

### **Vote Recommendation to NRSC to submit SOI when invitation opens in January/Review SOI**

**Presentation to School Committee:** Bob provided copy of Space Needs Task Force presentation for NRSC (originally planned for 12/16 meeting). (Include copy of presentation) The SOI does not require a financial commitment. The Task Force is reporting the needs, not recommending a solution. Providing this presentation separate from final report due to timing. Don questioned when the task force’s purpose shifted from proposing a solution to just identifying the needs. Bob stated that his understanding has always been that task force was supposed to identify needs, but with no budget for designs, etc., can’t really propose solutions. Several members concurred that they were under the impression that task force can identify the problems, but the MSBA will take an active role in deciding how the problems will be addressed/resolved. Don is concerned that if the district files an SOI/partners

with MSBA, we will be ceding control to the state. Also, concerned that MSBA will dictate how we will resolve the deficiencies based on a recipe. The alternative to MSBA is to do it on our own. Bob countered with his concern that if the district chose not to work with the MSBA now it could lead to greater expense later on when some future next project came along – the MSBA could require us to make corrections (at our expense) or exclude parts of the project from consideration because they would be built on top of non-conforming parts of the non-MSBA project. Other concerns were that it would be a hard sell to the towns to take on a project while leaving an appreciable amount of money on the table. Building committee would have a lot of control in decisions.

There is a lot of work that needs to be done to get the word out to the communities what problems the task force has identified and to rally support for some sort of project. Kathy also pointed out that a feasibility study will cost \$250K or more, which is not a part of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year – putting it off a year would allow budgeting for it.

(Returning to review of presentation) Timeline – after filing an SOI, if the district is accepted, it has 270 days to respond – it could end up requiring a special town meeting to fund it.

Task Force's role is to identify the needs and deficiencies; its role is not to propose the solution, nor to say when an SOI should be filed.

Does the Task Force want to recommend that SC direct the superintendent to file SOI? Don – concerned that at some point, there is a checkbox that indicates the district believes it has support for the project. How is that determined?

Perry Graham made a motion that the Nashoba Space Needs Task Force recommend to the NRSD School Committee that they authorize the superintendent to submit an SOI to the MSBA at a time that they believe is appropriate. Seconded by Mark Jones.

Vote: 7-1 in favor (Yes: Bob, Parry, Mark, Dave, Jody, Kathy, Maureen. No: Don)

Bob will probably be presenting our progress report to School Committee January 6 or January 13.

### **Organizational Discussion**

- Initially meetings were run by Mr. Wood, as things evolved, meeting leadership moved to Bob.
- At this point, do we need to formally organize ourselves and our purpose?
- Formally select a chairperson, etc.
- Who are the members and who gets to vote? (Important for determining quorum)

### **Schedule of Upcoming Meetings:**

- Thursday, January 7
- Thursday, January 21
- Thursday, February 11

**Continue Categorizing space needs:** The task force finished ranking the identified issues/deficiencies in the Important, Recommended, and Desirable categories.

(Critical: Areas affection health, safety, legal, or accreditation)

Important: Benefits to entire student body are large and easy to understand

Recommended: Benefits are not spread across all students

Desirable: Should be addressed but are not directly affecting student performance.)

**Adjourn** 9:35 Bob made a motion to adjourn (no second – went directly to the unanimous vote)