John Izzo (Co Chair)
Steven Adamowski
(Treasurer)
Lorie Vaccaro
Joseph Jaumann
Tracey DeLibero

Jim Gildea (Co Chair)
George Kurtyka
(Secretary)
Barbara DeGennaro
Tara Hyder
Ronald Luneau, Jr

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ANSONIA DERBY
TEMPORARY SCHOOL REGIONALIZATION COMMITTEE

Monday, August 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Derby Middle School

MINUTES

Co-chair James Gildea called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call
Ansonia members:

John Izzo - Co Chair	present
Steven Adamowski – Treasurer-	present (arrived at 7:25 p.m.)
Lorie Vaccaro	present
Joseph Jaumann	present
Tracey DeLibero	present

Derby Members:

Jim Gildea - Co Chair	present
George Kurtyka – Secretary	present
Tara Hyder	present
Ronald Luneau, Jr	present
Barbara DeGennaro	present

Also present
Atty. Matthew E. Venhorst, Esq. from the State of Connecticut Department of Education, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs.

Public Portion
No one came forward at this time.

Approval of minutes
Motion by James Gildea and seconded by Lorie Vaccaro. Move to approve the minutes of July 23, 2018, as presented. Motion passed with Barbara DeGennaro abstaining.

Ms. DeGennaro requested that hardcopies of the committee's materials be distributed prior to the meeting. She did not feel that it should be her duty to be printing out all the documents.

Discuss and finalize mission statement

Members reviewed a draft of a mission statement courtesy of Mike Gray, Principal of Race Brook School Orange with adaptations by Mr. Jaumann. Mr. Jaumann added bullet points to the statement from Mr. Gray to pinpoint more specific language as to the intent of the committee. He added 1.) Seek the most rigorous, diverse and relevant educational opportunities and the highest quality of education, for each student in both communities; 2.) Simultaneously seeking to achieve the most cost effective and financially responsible use of taxpayer dollars in both communities. He indicated that he drew the language the intent expressed in previous discussions as well as from the statutes.

Motion by George Kurtyka and seconded by Ronald Luneau Jr. Move to accept the mission statement, as adapted for the committee.

Discussion on the motion. Ms. DeGennaro felt that the statement should not be too specific because there are a lot of factors to be considered. Mr. Gildea indicated that adding the State Statutes was suggested by Dr. Conway. Ms. Hyder felt that brief and concise was appropriate and felt that the draft from Mr. Gray was sufficient with statutes added. Mr. Luneau felt the adapted model speaks to the intent of the committee. Mr. Izzo was agreeable to the original draft with the inclusion of the state statutes.

> **Mission Statement of the Temporary Regional School Study Committee (TRSSC)**
> The Temporary Regional School Study Committee will examine all pertinent qualitative and quantitative data available in order to determine the feasibility of merging the Ansonia and Derby school districts in accordance with State Statutes §10-43(a) (1) through (9). The result of this action will provide the most viable outcome for rigorous, diverse and relevant education opportunities for the students of both towns while maintaining fiscal responsibility on behalf of the residents.

Motion by George Kurtyka and seconded by Ronald Luneau Jr. Move to amend the motion to accept the mission statement, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss OPM & NVCOG contract

Richard Dunne, executive director and John DeCarlo, director of Municipal Shared Services were present from NVCOG. Mr. Dunne stated that the NVCOG has been selected to be the fiduciary administrator. The contract with OPM was executed today. The Committee is assigned the supervision of the expenditures. His office will process the invoices submitted from the Committee. The procurement of the consultant is through his agency meaning that he will execute the contract with the consultant after the committee makes its selection. As long as there are a sufficient number of candidates, there is no need for advertising. ACES is listed as the RESC (Regional Educational Service Center) and most districts have contracts already existing with this agency. The choice of the consultant will be made by the Committee with ACES available to provide assistance in the process. Mr. Dunne will be working with the consultant later to utilize the recommendations made during this process to become a broader foundation for other districts in the state to follow. His agency will be instrumental in preparing and forwarding the results. The OPM contract specifies 24 months plus one with his agency. Mr. Dunne explained although the Committee anticipates a greater period of time, OPM only commits to that length of time. He did note that it is typical for them to allow an extension if it makes sense upon request at the end of the initial period. Mr. Dunne reviewed the scope of work and related cost allotments under the grant. As per statutes, $10/per student equals $37,500 and this is firm. This amount involves professional services. Architectural services, such as building assessments and facility programming totals $30,000 but this can be more flexible. Professional delivery of services and proficiency of services totals $69,500 and that would apply to task two of the process. The remaining $31,000 is for administrative services which involve NVCOG costs and referendum costs.

Mr. Izzo read the language for each task.

Task 1 – NVCOG shall coordinate with Ansonia and Derby and the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), as needed, to procure and supervise the school consolidation study consultant(s) on behalf of the TRSSC. Task 1 shall study the advisability of establishing a regional school district and shall be undertaken in a manner that fulfills the requirements of §10-39 through §10-43 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). Areas of study for Task 1 may include, but are not be limited to, general requirements to consolidate school operations, facilities and staff of the two current districts, and the identification of principles for governance and representation for a possible combined school district. The consultant shall report directly to the TRSSC and take ordering and direction directly from the committee pursuant to the written scope of services. Except for architectural services and facility programming analysis, the fee for Task 1 is subject to the identified expenditure limit in CGS §10-42. All invoices will be submitted to NVCOG for payment. NVCOG will forward all submitted invoices to the TRSSC for approval prior to the issuance of payment.

Task 2 – NVCOG and the TRSSC shall also procure professional services to prepare a study of the potential savings and/or other operational efficiencies that could be derived from the joint delivery or sharing of services between the two school districts. Task 2 shall focus on identifying and evaluating specific services provided by the two districts that have the greatest potential to yield savings and/or efficiencies through economies of scale that result from the joint delivery or sharing of services. Results from Task 2 shall not be published prior to the submittal of the temporary regional school study committee's written report under CGS §10-43(a), which summarizes its Task 1 findings and recommendations to the State Board of Education and the town clerk of each participating municipality. The consultant shall report to and take direction from the TRSSC with regard to Task 2 but shall also consult with NVCOG staff as to the final scope and content of the separate report regarding joint delivery of services between the two separate school districts. Invoices for Task 2 shall be handled in the same manner as Task 1, with the exception that this task is not subject to the statutory expenditure limits.

Review and discuss RFP for selection of consultant

The request for qualifications document was reviewed by the members. Ms. DeGennaro noted that there were a number of typographical errors and formatting errors that needed correction.

Members discussed timelines for receiving resumes, interviews and selection. Ms. Hyder suggested that the protocols should be in place prior to interviewing. Questions should be established. As per the RFP, Dr. Conway will be the contact person to receive the requests.

Motion by James Gildea and seconded by Joseph Jaumann. Move that the TRSSC hold a special meeting on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Derby Middle School to determine the interview process for the candidates. Motion passed unanimously.

The regular meeting on September 24th will be for interviewing of candidates.

Mr. Gildea thanked the NVCOG for their diligent work on the RFQ as well as other work over the past month for the committee.

Motion by James Gildea and seconded by Steven Adamowski. Move to adopt the Request of Qualifications pending grammatical corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for the remainder of the year was decided.

Date	Ansonia	Derby	Meeting Location	Time
6/20/2018		X	Derby Middle School	7:00 p.m.
7/23/2018	X		Ansonia High School	7:00 p.m.
8/27/2018		X	Derby Middle School	7:00 p.m.
9/17/2018		X	Derby Middle School	7:00 p.m.
9/24/2018		X	Derby Middle School	7:00 p.m.
10/22/2018	X		Ansonia High School	7:00 p.m.
11/26/2018		X	Derby Middle School	7:00 p.m.
12/17/2018	X		Ansonia High School	7:00 p.m.

Motion by James Gildea and seconded by Lorie Vaccaro. Move to adopt the TRSSC meeting calendar for the remainder of the year, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

No session was needed.

Point of Good of the Order and Public Portion

Leslie Navarrete of 98 Beaver St, Ansonia acknowledged the mission statement and pointed out that the students of both districts are mainly from working class families. She said the best schools have quality with equity. When analyzing the services that all the schools give she asked to look at educational policies that disenfranchise or marginalize those students and find ways to make the students feel part of the classroom. Look at wrap around services that cater to all the students as the lower income students may not be able to afford them privately or have other alternates that help them on their studies outside the classroom. Operational services should align with the government services such as housing and welfare. The school climate should promote emotional intelligence. Many magnet schools are now implementing that climate and it has shown positive results for the lower income students. She suggested that the Committee look into CASE – Connecticut Academic Science and Engineering as a possible consultant. Working at the capital she was aware of them doing many educational studies and found that they have done a diverse amount of work with equity in education. Her contact was Richard Strauss.

Mr. Luneau noted that he has been approached by many people worried whether this endeavor is viable for the two communities. It has been suggested that a survey or opinion poll be taken to gauge the feeling of the residents. Ms. DeGennaro questioned whether it was too early to consider comments being that the structure of the plan has yet to be determined. Mr. Luneau suggested that public comment may provide insight into the direction the committee may undertake to bring about a positive conclusion. Ms. Hyder felt that at this time no clear path has been defined as the information has yet to be uncovered. She felt the referendum's purpose will be to reveal the resident's opinion. Mr. Jaumann noted that the Committee will be regularly reporting to each town. Members felt it was too soon to undertake a survey but may be considered further into the process.

Nina Phipps noted it is emotional right now and maybe an informational mailing with the timeline, facts and bullet points of what the Committee is doing could be helpful. Getting the information out may quell the voiced concerns.

Burt Flaherty of 28 Pinecrest Avenue, Ansonia felt it is way too early to have comment. It is premature to go to the public. The meeting is available to the public and he appreciates the second public comment so questions can be asked on the discussions held at the meeting. He felt something concrete needs to be in place prior to reaching out.

Leslie Navarrete suggested a webpage on each of the City's sites may be helpful. She also suggested an email address or contact point be provided where residents who can not attend the meetings can raise questions or voice their opinions.

Laura Lane of 117 Westfield Avenue, Ansonia stated that she could not attend the last meeting but appreciated access to the minutes that were very informative.

Mr. Adamowski encouraged each town to include the minutes and other materials on the school district websites.

Motion by James Gildea and seconded by Ronald Luneau Jr. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted;
Karen Kemmesies