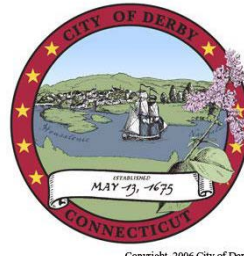


John Izzo (Co Chair)
Steven Adamowski
(Treasurer)
Lorie Vaccaro
Joseph Jaumann
Tracey DeLibero



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

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ANSONIA DERBY TEMPORARY REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 25, 2019
Derby Middle School

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Ansonia members:

Steven Adamowski – Treasurer-	excused
Lorie Vaccaro	present
Joseph Jaumann	present
Tracey DeLibero	present
Christopher Phipps	present

Derby Members:

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

Also present

John DiCarlo, NVCOG director of Municipal Shared Services
Dr. Joseph DiBacco – Ansonia Superintendent of Schools
Stephen Bergin – Ansonia Asst. Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Matthew Conway – Derby Superintendent of Schools (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)
Robbie Havdala – District Management Group
Simone Carpenter – District Management Group
Rebecca Augur, AICP -Milone & MacBroom
Paul Jorgensen – District Management Group
Michelle Miller – District Management Group
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.

Ansonia vacancy

Motion by Tracy DeLibero and seconded by Lorie Vaccaro. Move to nominate Joseph Jaumann as co-chair of the Temporary Regional School Study Committee.

Roll call:

Steven Adamowski – Treasurer- excused
Lorie Vaccaro yes
Joseph Jaumann abstained
Tracey DeLibero yes
Christopher Phipps yes

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

Motion passed.

Review Temporary Regional School Study Committee timeline

Atty. Venhorst explained that the state statute that gives the committee life states the term to be two years. Derby will expire in March and Ansonia in April. It would be in the best interest of each City to request an extension of an additional two years. Mr. DiCarlo indicated that letters have been drafted to be sent to each legislative body if the Committee approves that action.

Motion by George Kurtyka and seconded by Christopher Phipps. Move to authorize the NVCOG to request a two-year extension of the terms of the Temporary Regional School Study Committee from Ansonia and Derby. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes

Motion by Barbara DeGennaro and seconded by Ronald Luneau, Jr. Move to table the approval of the minutes of August 26, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Adamowski was excused this evening. There was no activity.

Task 1 and Task 2 Report presentations

The report this evening presents considerations for seven potential configurations, ranging from status quo to a PK-12 regional district with 3 elementary schools ranging from less regional to more regional. Mr. Havdala started the presentation.

Configuration	# of Boards of Education and Central Offices	Facility Changes
Status Quo – 2 independent districts	2 local	None
2 independent districts with shared services	2 local	None
2 independent districts with shared services and a shared central office	2 local	Central Office
9-12 regional district	2 local 1 regional	1 regional High School (Ansonia High School)

6-12 regional district	2 local 1 regional	1 regional High School (Ansonia High School) 1 regional Middle School (Derby Middle School)
PK – 12 regional district (4 elementary)	1 regional	1 regional High School (Ansonia High School) 1 regional Middle School (Derby Middle School)
PK – 12 regional district (3elementary)	1 regional	1 regional High School (Ansonia High School) 1 regional Middle School (Derby Middle School) 3 regional Elementary Schools (Prendergast, Mead & Bradley)

Mr. Havdala noted that regionalization in Connecticut takes on many shapes and forms and the Committee will be have to determine the best configuration for the two cities. The information this evening will begin that discussion.

The academics key points were raised.

Academic Performance	There is no evidence to suggest that regionalization would dramatically improve or worsen academic performance
Course Offerings	High School students from both districts would have more courses to choose from at a regionalized school
Stress or Anxiety	Students, staff and parents could experience stress or anxiety related to the closing of one school and transition to another
SPED and EL	Most Students with disabilities and English Learners would not see significant programming impact, though students currently served out of the district could potentially be served in-district.

Next Ms. Miller reviewed the infrastructure cost estimations. The assumed regional percentage of reimbursement is at 76.78%. She noted that the specific numbers would be dictated by the project and the State has different calculations dependent on new construction, renovate as new, alterations, etc.

The assessment of the buildings was explained at previous meetings and if the City's were to remain status quo there would still be an estimated cost in the range of \$62,090,000 to bring the existing buildings to the suggested levels of restoration. It was stressed that not all the recommendations needed to be urgently done and there were no significant issues that warrant immediate attention.

Ms. Miller reviewed the possible configurations with the projected associated costs.

For the shared Central Office it was thought that the Ansonia location was the best choice. The location would have to have the existing portables removed, the existing building would have light renovations and an addition would be needed. State reimbursement of 38.39 % would result in a net cost of \$770,000.

For the 9-12 Regionalization the Ansonia High School would be the better choice. This would require and addition onto the existing school. Derby High School would be closed and the P-K

would be moved to Bradley School (requiring an addition onto Bradley). Capital cost of \$45,770,000 after reimbursement.

For the 6-12 Regionalization the Ansonia High School and Derby Middle School would be used. The Ansonia Middle School needs significantly more investment for improvements. The Derby Middle School location would need to be expanded and the parcel is a bit challenging. PK would relocate to the elementary schools. Capital cost of \$34,160,000 after reimbursement.

In a PK-12 regionalization with four elementary schools, the same facilities as 6-12 regionalization are used (with additions included) for a capital cost of \$32,240,000 after reimbursement. HS would be grades 9-12, MS grades 6-8 and elementary schools PK-5.

In a PK-12 regionalization with three elementary schools Derby's Irving School would close and Bradley School would expand. Capital cost of \$24,990,000 after reimbursement.

Next Ms. Augur went over enrollment projections for the next five years. It appears Ansonia should see a slight increase of 3% whereas Derby is projected to decrease by 13%. Housing and population was discussed questioning how vacancy rates and projected new developments would impact these numbers.

Ms. Carpenter reviewed the historical expenditures for each district for SY 14-15 to SY 18-19. Combined expenditures have grown 2% annually over the past five years. She projected cost numbers by city under each scenario noting that the figures do reflect the selling of the buildings that would be closed. Members asked for a clearer financial picture breaking down the selling projections, the necessary work and the renovation costs that could be delayed if not found to be urgent. She next went over the staffing comparisons and salary costs. Likely if the districts regionalized, then a new bargaining agreements would have to be negotiated.

Mr. Havdala reviewed the regional district configurations. He presented potential scenarios taking into account projected student populations. He indicated that each includes the "crossover voting" rule which requires all approvals to have at least one affirmative vote from each city.

6 Ansonia, 3 Derby	Nine member board with each member having equal voting rights
10 member weighted voting	Ansonia (64%) would have 5 members and each vote counts 12.8% Derby (36%) would have 5 members and each vote counts 7.2%
9 at large	Nine at large board members elected from across Ansonia and Derby and each member has equal voting rights.

As enrollment shifts the percentages would adjust. The language of the regional district's formation would provide greater details into the makeup. Atty. Venhorst noted that the numbers will be adjusted every ten years as new census data is retrieved.

The Task 2 report includes five main section, plus an executive summary.

- Shared Services in Connecticut
- History of Shared Services in Ansonia and Derby
- Potential areas for Saving
- New Opportunities for Students
- Implementation

Shared services through cooperative arrangements can include most any district function without a referendum.

The definition of shared services is “Any two or more boards of education may, in writing, agree to establish cooperative arrangements to provide school accommodations service, programs or activities, special education services or health care services to enable such boards to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes.” CGS 10-158a.

Based on per pupil costs the report estimates that the districts could save \$1.05 million combined (Ansonia 60% and Derby 40%) by sharing central offices, as well as special education and economies of scale.

The two cities have previously successfully shared services. Both districts currently share a transportation manager and facilities with Seymour and Beacon Falls. Derby food services previously provided services to Ansonia. The districts formerly shared an IT manager. Contracting between the cities can provide arrangements that would be shorter term than regionalization and arrangements can terminate or change.

In conclusion Mr. Havdala stated that the authors of the report believe that the Temporary Regional School Study Committee should consider the status quo, shared services (an option that would not require a referendum) and the two PK-12 regionalization scenarios. The merged 9-12 or 6-12 scenarios present with lesser savings.

Members thanked the presenters for their detailed presentation. Mr. Gildea polled the members to see what the next steps should be for the committee. He questioned whether subcommittees should be formed to delve into the specific details of the reports. Members felt it better to work as a whole. With the holidays approaching, meetings are always difficult in December. It was decided to hold a special meeting on December 9th to develop the strategies on how the committee would move forward.

Point of Good of the Order and Public Portion

Nothing was presented from the committee.

A gentleman from 20 Pinecrest Street Ansonia thanked the presenters and the members of the committee for their 17 months of work so far. He felt that going forward it is crucial to have true financial numbers net to net so that an accurate and informed decision can be made for regionalization or for shared services.

Motion by George Kurtyka and seconded by Christopher Phipps. Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted;
Karen Kemmesies