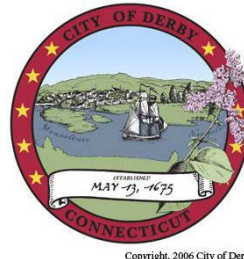


John Izzo (Co Chair)
Steven Adamowski
(Treasurer)
Lorie Vaccaro
Joseph Jaumann
Tracey DeLibero



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

ANSONIA DERBY TEMPORARY REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

Monday, June 24, 2019
Derby Middle School

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call

Ansonia members:

John Izzo - Co Chair	present
Steven Adamowski – Treasurer-	present
Lorie Vaccaro	present
Joseph Jaumann	present
Tracey DeLibero	excused

Derby Members:

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

Also present

John DiCarlo, NVCOG director of Municipal Shared Services
Rebecca Augur, AICP -Milone & MacBroom
Dr. Joseph DiBacco – Ansonia Superintendent of Schools
Dennis Proto – Ansonia - School Governance Council
Vincent Scarlata – Ansonia Board of Education

Dr. Matthew Conway – Derby Superintendent of Schools was excused as he was attending a Board of Alderman meeting.

Public Portion

No one came forward.

Approval of minutes

Motion by Joseph Jaumann and seconded by George Kurtyka. Move to approve the minutes of April 22, 2019, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Motion by Lorie Vaccaro and seconded by George Kurtyka. Move to approve the payment of the first invoice received from District Management Group (DMG) in the amount of \$15,400. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DiCarlo reported that this is the first invoice from DMG for professional services rendered as a consultant. He noted that the committee should develop protocols for payment of invoices in the event that the committee meeting is cancelled so as to avoid long delays in payment. It was noted that the payments are for budgeted expenses as per their contract. Members supported having the treasurer oversee the payments.

Motion by Steven Adamowski and seconded by Lorie Vaccaro. Move to rely on the Treasurer and the Fiduciary to approve payment of invoices for the District Management Group as per the contracted agreement. Mr. Jaumann requested that representatives from DMG be available to answer any questions that may arise. Motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Augur, AICP of Milone & MacBroom Inc. (MMI) presented demographic and housing trends in each community as well as enrollment trends for each school district. Enrollment projections for each district were tabulated.

Demographics for each town were tabulated. Population for each town was relatively stable. Looking from 1970 and projecting to 2040 it showed both communities experienced a low in total population in 1990 but there have been small increases since then. 2017 estimates have Ansonia at 18,953 and Derby at 12,700. In the period from 2010 to 2017 both towns reflect decreases in children under the age of five years old, a spike in the 5-14 year olds and an increase in the 50-74 age group primarily because of the baby boomer generation. Births from 2000 to 2018 display a modest downward trend. Household compositions are similar in each town with a quarter of all households having children under the age of 18. About 40% of the households are married couple families and there is slightly higher percentage for non-family households. The non-family households are reflective of the aging demographic. There are indicators that the non-family households are ripe for turnover and the housing stock reflects good starter family housing. Both communities are largely built out and new residential construction building permits remain consistently low. Rental occupancy rates are consistent in each town. Rental vacancy rates are significantly higher in Derby than Ansonia and both are higher than the State levels. This is a reflection of the transient nature of the community.

Economically the unemployment rates mimic the State and County trends for 2005 to 2017 with both towns slightly higher than the State and County trends.

Ansonia K-12 enrollment has decreased by 14% over the last decade, however, a decrease of less than 1% in the last five years. Elementary enrollments (K-6) increased by 3% over the last three years.

Derby K-12 enrollment has decreased by 13% over the last decade; the decrease over the last five years is 15%. There is a 23% loss in K-5 over the last five years and a 10% decrease in high school enrollment over the past five years. There was an unusual drop in 2018-2019.

Combined enrollment history reflects a decrease of 13% for K-12 grades over the last decade and 6% over the last five years. K-5 combined decrease of 14%, grades 6-8 combined decrease of 7%, and grades 9-12 a decrease of 18% over the last decade. Combined K-12 projects a district population estimate of approximately 3,500 students in 2018-2019. Enrollment as the students advance through the grades reflects movement out of the district. That is a reflection of the transient nature of the community. Many high school age students transfer to tech, magnet or private schools and those alternative numbers are not available due to privacy concerns.

Projections for Ansonia reflect that the elementary level will increase 3% over the next five years before decreasing to below current levels nine to ten years out. Middle school projected to increase 7% over five years and 17% out ten years. High school is projected to decrease about 10% out five years and about 6% overall out ten years.

It was noted that high variability in ratios and inconsistency in ratios are indicators of transiency. Derby's projections reflect these inconsistencies. It was noted that the out-placed special education students are counted within the population.

Projections for Derby reflect that the elementary level will decrease 13% over the next five years and by 14% ten years out. Middle school projected to decrease 28% over five years with additional decreases out ten years. High school is projected to have steady enrollment over the next five years before declining due to smaller cohorts. It was noted that the downward trend and the data collected do seem to reflect an anomaly. Additional information that was not obtained prior to compiling this report could result in modest changes to these numbers.

Combining the projections from both towns K-5 is projected to decrease 3% over next five years and about 6% over the next ten years. Grades 6-8 is projected to decrease 8% over the next five years and remain stable at about 800 students out ten years. Grades 9-12 projected to decrease 6% over next five years; however, experience more significant decline in the latter half of projection horizon for a total decrease of 14% out ten years.

The combined projections would likely result in a K-12 student population of 3,500 five years out. Combined 6-12 would result in 1,700 and 9-12 would result in approximately 900 students five years out.

It was noted that a copy of the Power Point presentation is on Derby's Board of Education website.

Point of Good of the Order and Public Portion

Nina Phipps of Ansonia wondered Oxford's change in school district recently could provide further insight. Ms. Augur indicated that there would be many variable factors that would have to be taken into account and the outcomes would be antidotal at best.

Dr. Adamowski asked if Ms. Augur had access to the enrollment numbers throughout the state and if so, could she rank the districts per student count to determine how this 3,400 combined student population would place within the ranks. Ms. Augur will research the data.

Next meeting will be July 22, 2019 at Ansonia High School.

Motion by George Kurtyka and seconded by Joseph Jaumann. Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted;
Karen Kemmesies