

**Select Board Meeting – Four Towns Meeting
Saturday, November 3, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.
Amherst Regional Middle School Library**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 9:05 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Alisa Brewer, Diana Stein, Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: Jim Wald, Aaron Hayden

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; Sandy Pooler, Finance Director

Others present: Members of the Regional School District Planning Board, members of the Amherst and Regional School Committee and their officials; members of the Amherst Finance Committee, and members of the Select Boards, School Committees and Finance Committees for the towns of Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury, and their administrative officials; Senator Stan Rosenberg; Representative Ellen Story, Representative Steve Kulik

Regional School District Planning Board Update to Town Officials

Members of the RSDPB provided historical information on the area’s superintendency unions and regional agreements; reviewed the RSDPB’s formation, charge and organizational structure; and outlined their study process to date and timeline going forward. Senator Rosenberg and Representatives Story and Kulik talked about current fiscal and political issues related to regionalization, and how those have changed over the last couple of years. Representatives from the boards and committees of Amherst, Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury asked questions related to process, finances and town-specific concerns and priorities. The process calls for forums in each town to hear public feedback, and includes a number of decision points that will determine whether or not to proceed with a recommendation for a new regionalization model. If a new model is recommended, that question would be put to voters at Town Meeting for Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury, and via a Town Election for Amherst, in November 2013. If passed, the new model would take effect at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. Any reconfigured regionalization plan would require approval from the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Adjournment time was unrecorded; it was approximately 11:30 a.m.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting - Available at RegionalSchoolPlanning.com:

PowerPoint Presentation: Regional School District Planning Board – Town Officials Update

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O’Keeffe