MEETING MINUTES – FY2017

Rowe School Committee - Wednesday, March 8, 2017 – 10:00am
Mohawk Trail Regional School – Superintendent's Conference Room
24 Ashfield Rd, Buckland MA

Present: Susie Zavotka (SZ) and Ellen Miller (EM)
Absent: Janet Cowie (JC)
Also Present: Rowe Officials: BOS: Dennis May; FinCom: Ray Wilson, Wayne Zavotka
Mohawk Budget Subcommittee: Martha Thurber, Poppy Doyle
Mohawk Administration: Supt. Michael Buoniconti, Business Administrator Mike Kociela
Audience: None

Call to Order: SZ called the meeting to order at 10:08am.

The group reviewed documents prepared by Ellen Miller and Mike Kociela. After lengthy discussion, the following was agreed upon:

1. Tuition for FY18 would be calculated using Column D of the *Projected Mohawk Tuition vs Projected Mohawk Member Assessment – FY18* spreadsheet prepared by Ellen Miller. This is the calculation that has been used for the last 8-10 years. It does not follow the Regional District Agreement language, but it was agreed that it resulted in a fair tuition rate...$14,585 for FY18.
2. A special town meeting will be held in Rowe prior to May 1, 2017, to act on joining the Mohawk District, or remaining on a tuition basis.
3. If the town votes to join the district, the Regional District Agreement will need to be amended to include Rowe as a member town. The change would take effect July 1, 2018 (FY19).
4. If the town does not vote to join the district, Rowe and Mohawk officials will work on a revision to the tuition calculation method for FY19 going forward. Martha Thurber will check with school counsel (and/ or state officials) to see who has authority for changes and acceptance of a new tuition agreement.

It was noted that...

- Rowe's "friendly" withdrawal from the district in 1982 was at the suggestion of MA Dept of Education, as Rowe's membership in the district was reducing the district's state aid by a sizeable amount (legend has it at upwards of $1 million). That is no longer the case. If Rowe were to have joined the district for FY18, it would result in an estimated $53,000 increase in the district's state aid.
- In the event a member town's enrollment diminishes, the town's assessment would also diminish. If a town's enrollment drops to zero for a 5-year period, their assessment would also be zero. The town would still be responsible for any capital projects (including debt) that they voted to support.
- All amendments to the Regional District Agreement require unanimous vote by all member towns.

Adjournment: At 11:43am EM made a motion to adjourn the meeting. SZ seconded motion and it passed unanimously (2/0/0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B Miller

Approved: Susan Zavotka 3/9/17
Susan Zavotka, Chair Date

Attachments:
- Agenda
- Projected Mohawk Tuition vs Project Mohawk Member Assessment - FY18
- Projected Rowe Gr 7-12 Enrollments - to 2036
- Rowe Tuition Scenarios
- MTRSD FY18 Assessments Per Pupil-Rowe Tuition Calculation (3 sheets)
- Merger Calc – Rowe Secondary (9 sheets)

+ attached notes
SZ

Meeting Minutes FY 2017

Rowe School Committee

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 – 10:00 am Mohawk School

(Meeting held jointly with members of Mohawk Finance Sub-committee, Rowe BOS, and Rowe Finance Committee)

Present: Ellen Miller, Susie Zavotka (Rowe School Committee),

Also Present: Dennis May (Rowe BOS), Ray Wilson, Wayne Zavotka (Rowe Finance Committee), Martha Thurber, Poppy Doyle (Mohawk School Committee), Michael Buoniconti, Mike Kociela (Mohawk School Admin).

Audience: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susie Zavotka at 10:08 am

Discussion:

The group reviewed documents related to possible tuition formulas and a projected assessment if Rowe were to join Mohawk grades 7-12. These documents were prepared by Mike Kociela and Ellen Miller.

The following decisions were made

The group agreed that the figures and information presented in the document, "Projected Assessments if Rowe were a member of Mohawk at the Secondary Level Fiscal Year 2018" are an accurate estimate of a projected assessment (attached).

The following procedure was recommended to determine the future arrangement between Rowe and Mohawk District:

1. Rowe School Committee will vote to request to hold a STM with Warrant Article (already prepared) related to Rowe joining Mohawk District grades 7-12. (Meeting needs to occur in April)

2. Rowe School Committee will prepare an information mailing to go out with the warrant and also hold a public information session prior to the vote.

3. STM – vote will occur (Before May 1)

4. If Rowe votes yes, then legal changes, will proceed. Joining Mohawk District would become official on July 1, 2018.

Rowe School District

86 Pond Road, Rowe, MA 01367
(413) 512-5100

NOTICE OF MEETING

ROWE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday
March 8, 2017, 10:00 am
Superintendent's Conference Room, Mohawk School
24 Ashfield Rd, Shelburne, MA

Agenda

I. **Call to order**

II. **Discussion**

A. Review of tuition agreement options and option to join Mohawk Regional District grades 7-12

III. **Adjournment:**

The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Posted:

Any person may, pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, audiotape an open meeting. As such, please be advised that this meeting may be taped by any person present.