

OLD COLONY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

476 North Avenue
Rochester, MA 02770

Wednesday
September 23, 2020

CHARTER REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Present: Mrs. Shirley Bourque, Mrs. Joanne Puskar, Mr. Donald Foster, Mr. Maurice St. Amand, Mr. Stephen Cassidy

Also: Mr. Aaron Polansky, Superintendent-Director; Mrs. Sarah Griffith, Business Manager; Mr. Kyle O'Neill, Director of Technology; Mrs. Jolene Costa, District Committee Secretary

Guests:	Mr. John Howcroft	Acushnet Finance Committee
	Mr. Ron Melbourne	Acushnet Finance Committee
	Ms. Sarah Hewins	Carver Board of Selectmen
	Mr. Mark Townsend	Carver Board of Selectmen
	Mr. Alan Germain	Carver Finance Committee
	Mr. Donald Williams	Carver Old Colony School Committee Member
	Mr. Richard LaCamera	Lakeville Board of Selectmen
	Mr. Brian Day	Lakeville Board of Selectmen
	Ms. Evagelia Fabian	Lakeville Board of Selectmen
	Mr. Robert Marshall	Lakeville Old Colony School Committee Member
	Mr. Michael Lorenzo	Mattapoisett Town Administrator
	Mr. John DeCosta	Mattapoisett Board of Selectmen
	Ms. Suzanne Szyndlar	Rochester Town Administrator
	Mr. Greenwood Hartley III	Rochester Board of Selectmen
	Bradford Morse	Rochester Board of Selectmen
	Mr. Paul Ciaburri	Rochester Board of Selectmen
	Mr. Kristian Stoltenberg	Rochester Finance Committee

Mr. Polansky called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Polansky stated this evening's meeting is taking place via ZOOM Technology and will be lived streamed on the Old Colony Facebook page.

Mr. Polansky named all those in attendance.

Mr. Polansky stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss the request from Freetown Board of Selectmen expressing interest in exploring membership in the Old Colony School District.

Mr. Polansky shared a power point presentation titled Consideration of Expansion which reviewed the History of Freetown Enrollment and Impacts, Enrollment trends, Funding Structure, Buy-in Cost, Historical Comparison and Pros and Cons regarding Freetown joining.

Mr. Polansky explained this meeting is to gather thoughts from sending districts before moving forward.

There was discussion regarding the redistribution of students if Freetown is allowed to join the district and the impacts on member towns.

Mr. Townsend inquired about additional State Aid if Freetown became a part of the District.

Mrs. Griffith stated State Aid would increase with the increased enrollment and inclusion of Freetown students.

There was discussion regarding assessments being spread over six (6) towns resulting in a percentage offset from Freetown students.

Mrs. Griffith stated the assessments would fall however it would be based upon increase in budget and state aid along with Freetown enrollment numbers leaving it difficult to predict.

Mr. Melbourne asked if the admittance of Freetown students would help expedite the Statement of Interest (SOI) for the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) project.

Mr. Polansky stated it would not expedite the SOI however it would add to viability which would allow Old Colony to build to member population resulting in a larger facility with the inclusion of Freetown.

Mr. Lorenzo inquired about what would take place if there was no money from MSBA and possible expansion alternatives.

Mr. Polansky stated the possibility of having access to portable classrooms and moving indoor classes outside creating room for more vocational areas.

Mr. Germain stated the pros and cons of the addition of Freetown need to be discussed.

There was discussion regarding the SOI and the next steps.

Mr. Polansky stated the next step is an invite for a feasibility study which will be decided in December of 2020.

Mr. Polansky stated that feasibility study will determine the scope of the project as well as the member town population.

There was discussion surrounding the buy-in cost.

Mr. LaCamera stated the cost should include the value of the school and the amount the five (5) member towns have invested over the years and not just the debt.

Mr. Polansky stated at the time Lakeville joined, the buy-in cost was similar to the amount of debt that was incurred up to that point and the town received a significant reimbursement from a state program that is no longer offered.

Mr. LaCamera also stated to get all information in writing from the state.

Mr. Polansky explained the current Admissions and application process and how current enrollment was determined.

There was discussion regarding how Freetown would pay the buy-in, whether it would be yearly increments with interest or a one-time upfront cost.

Mr. Polansky described the next steps once the member towns were in agreement to contact Freetown to have discussion regarding joining the district.

Ms. Hewins requested Mr. Polansky share the power point presentation with Selectman and School Committee of the sending districts as well.

There was discussion regarding the importance of including a stipulation to agree to expansion should Freetown join the district.

Mr. Germain requested a flow chart be completed including the scope of the project and the pros and cons of Freetown membership or non-membership.

Mr. Polansky asked by a show of hands if the sending districts were in support of an expansion project.

All towns agreed.

Mr. Polansky stated the next steps would be to reach out to Freetown and have a meeting regarding their interest in exploring membership in the Old Colony School District.

Mr. Polansky outlined the next steps as follows:

- **School Committee vote in the October meeting on extending an invitation to Freetown to open dialogue regarding their request.**
- **Meeting with Freetown and member towns to have discussion regarding expansion of building and membership.**
- **Member towns will vote at their Town Meetings regarding Freetown becoming a member as well as the updated language in the District Agreement to include Freetown.**

Mr. Day requested an approximate number for an expansion or new building project to see what towns would be looking at as far as cost.

Mr. Polansky stated he would send out a survey to other Districts who have recently completed projects and gather information.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jolene Costa
District Committee Secretary**

Mr. Stephen J. Cassidy III

Date