

COMMITTEE FOR SHARED SERVICES
December 19, 2016
5:00 P.M.
MINUTES

PRESENT:	Colebrook Hartland Norfolk Regional No. 7 Shared Services	Jeanne Jones, Chairperson Staci Hastey Carolyn Childs, Vice-Chairperson Theresa Kenneson, Secretary/Treasurer Quentin H. Rueckert, Executive Director
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ABSENT:	Barkhamsted Superintendents' Council	Donna Beaudoin Judith Palmer, Sup't-Regional No. 7
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1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC PORTION:

- a. Special visitors or delegations
None
- b. Opportunity for public to speak on agenda items
None

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF October 17, 2016, meeting:

Motion by Carolyn Childs, seconded by Theresa Kenneson, to accept the minutes as presented.

In favor: Jeanne Jones, Theresa Kenneson, Carolyn Childs and Staci Hastey
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

4. Director's Report:

- a) Quentin Rueckert reported on the Highlander Transition Academy (HTA), which is a Regional #7 program run by Shared Services. HTA staff is in the process of making changes to the banking/personal finance portion of the program that are positive and designed to focus on current personal banking procedures. Additionally, we are working on recruiting students for next year.
- b) Quentin reported on the pre-school program. Jeff Linton, the Barkhamsted Superintendent, is interested in expanding pre-school offerings in Barkhamsted to include a full-day four year old tuition based program. Quentin is working with Jeff and other Barkhamsted and Shared Services staff to integrate this with the existing Shared Services preschool.

- c) Quentin discussed the Bridges program which is in question in terms of the ability to keep it open next year with only two students. There are preschool students coming up that are autistic/behavioral and are likely candidates for Bridges but not for next year. Clearly, it is important for the district member towns to have programs available to them to keep students in their local communities and avoid unnecessary costly outplacements. Quentin is working on some solutions for keeping Bridges solvent and functioning , including expanding Bridges to include preschool students and a proposal to assess the towns for the base cost of the program. Quentin is working with the superintendents on this.
- d) Quentin reported that the school psychologist and coordinator positions are all set for this year.
- e) Quentin reported on the Connections program which is going very well. The program is well represented this year by all the towns with 32 students signed up to attend at least one program. This is a fun and interesting enrichment program which is well received.

5. SUPERINTENDENTS' COUNCIL REPORT:

Dr. Judy Palmer was not present so Quentin briefly reported that the Superintendents' Council met on December 13th during which the council discussed the regional calendar, substitutes, the Department of Developmental Services' memo regarding residential placements, the Bridges program, and math curriculum.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

7. OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed Focused Goals - Quentin and the committee discussed his proposed focused goals and agreed to the following three goals:

1. To find a solution to keep the Bridges program solvent and cost effective for the member towns.
2. To work with the superintendents to expand/create programming in-district for emotionally disturbed students.
3. To work with the superintendents to "level the playing field" in terms of paraprofessionals' hours, rates of pay and benefits across the districts.

MOTION by Theresa Kenneson, seconded by Carolyn Childs, to approve the Proposed Focused Goals as presented.

In favor: Jeanne Jones, Theresa Kenneson, Carolyn Childs and Staci Haste
Opposed: None
Abstain: None

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Presentation of the check register to the CSS treasurer: The check register was provided electronically to Theresa Kenneson.
- b) The Committee for Shared Services (CSS) welcomed a new member from Hartland and is thrilled to have their involvement. The Committee decided to make no changes to the officer positions.

MOTION by Theresa Kenneson, seconded by Carolyn Childs, to continue officers for CSS as they are.

In favor: Jeanne Jones, Theresa Kenneson, Carolyn Childs and Staci Hastey
Opposed: None
Abstain: None

9. OTHER:

None

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

None

MOTION at 5:40 p.m. by Staci Hastey, seconded by Theresa Kenneson, to adjourn the meeting.

In favor: Jeanne Jones, Theresa Kenneson, Carolyn Childs and Staci Hastey
Opposed: None
Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin H. Rueckert

Approved: 1/30/17