

**Pomfret Community School
Designated High School Options Committee
Minutes
September 24, 2018**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Designated High School Options Committee of the Pomfret Community School was held on Monday, September 24, 2018 in the PCS Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Present when the meeting was called to order were Board members: B. Tuttle, W. Bundy and K. Cerrone. Also present were S. Cullinan, Superintendent and S. Imschweiler, Principal.

Audience of Citizens - Tim Coodier, Pomfret resident, stated he was not familiar with the work of the committee and asked for some background information. K. Cerrone provided information regarding the genesis and ongoing work of the committee. K. Cerrone stated that Woodstock Academy will remain a designated high school for Pomfret resident students. The committee is responding to parental requests to consider additional options for Pomfret resident students. T. Coodier inquired as to the initial scoring formula and stated that he thought that the tuition rate should be an important factor in any decision. K. Cerrone discussed the importance of program offerings for students as well as tuition for the work of the committee. K. Cerrone stated that the committee initially considered nine school districts. That list was reduced to five. It is now at four. The committee intends to narrow that list this evening.

Fred Nagle, Pomfret resident, asked if there was any parental input into the initial scoring formula. K. Cerrone explained that the initial scoring formula is only intended to rank the order of the four schools under consideration. Public presentations by finalists will be scheduled and parental input on a final recommendation to the Board of Education will be important for the members of the committee.

Kerri Nagle, Pomfret resident, may have questions after hearing more about the work of the committee.

Holly Singleton, Woodstock Academy, nothing at this time.

Mike Morrell, Putnam, nothing at this time.

New Business

- Review of Updated Appendix B Committee Process

S. Cullinan informed the committee that the meeting packet included the minutes from the previous meeting as well as a copy of the September 4, 2018 letter to Head of School Christopher Sandford to clarify the work of this committee. The letter clearly states that Woodstock Academy will remain a designated high school for Pomfret resident students. In the letter S. Cullinan requested that this communication be shared with members of the Board of Trustees as well as other interested parties. It is not known at this time if this letter was forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

S. Cullinan reviewed the updates to Appendix B. Information had been added to the document in the following sections: Review and Analysis of Required Information from Each School and Selection Criteria.

- Review of Initial Scoring

The committee reviewed the results of initial scoring. The committee discussed whether an additional option should be similar to the current option or should offer something different. There was discussion of the significant financial and logistical issues that would be involved in transporting students to E. O. Smith. In addition to transportation, among the other topics considered in discussion were: tuition, size of student population, class size, as well as academic and extra-curricular programs. After considerable discussion the committee decided to continue to consider Killingly High School and Putnam High School as possible additional designated high schools for Pomfret resident students.

- Review of Notes, Comments, Questions

The administration did provide a list of notes, comments and questions related to the selection process. Among the items on this list were: similar or dissimilar programs; transportation; tuition; World Languages; technology; clubs and organizations; college credit offerings; enrollment; and athletics.

- Establish Next Step(s)

The committee will schedule presentations from the two schools at the end of October or beginning of November. The presentations are expected to be one-half hour in length with ample time for questions and answers. Among the areas that the presentations should address are: academic overview including data related to student performance; opportunities for college credit and institutions graduates attend; athletics and extra-curricular offerings; experience with sending towns including plans to assimilate Pomfret resident students into their school; and an opportunity to present what is unique about their school - why students would want to attend that school.

The committee will also schedule site visits to each school. Upon completion of the presentations and the site visits the committee will meet to finalize its recommendation at the November 14, 2018 meeting of the Board of Education.

The committee directed the superintendent to discuss the capital cost portion of Killingly's proposed tuition and request that this not be included in the assessed tuition should Pomfret approve Killingly as a designated high school.

- Establish Next Meeting Date

The committee will establish its next meeting date upon completion of the presentations and site visits.

- Items as Needed - None.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.