

Monday, April 3, 2017
Joint Meeting of Board of Selectmen and School Board
Raymond High School Media Center
Minutes
Approved April 19, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Michelle Couture, Janice Arsenault, and Jaclyn Serrine; Superintendent of Schools Ellen Small; Business Administrator Ron Brickett. For the Board of Selectmen: Jonathan Wood, Jack Barnes, Craig Wheeler, Wayne Welch, and George Plante.

Proof of Posting: It was noted that the meeting was properly posted.

Public Input: The Board of Selectmen invited public input. During public input:

Doug Vogel applauded the town and school coming together to combine efforts of the town and school. "Two hands in the same pants" He asked to please make this opportunity work; that other committees have not been productive.

Roscoe Blaisdell presented handmade bowls to the school and town.

Discussion of Town and School Priorities:

Possible needs: shared finance director, shared utilities

There was discussion about setting priorities, and if that would mean prioritizing contracts, school, and/or police station.

Mr. Wood suggesting bringing in more members from the town at large. Mr. Harmon agreed. Each Board will select two members to be on this committee. Individuals will be called in as needed, such as department heads. Two community members would be chosen. Letters need to be submitted by April 15 to the Town if they are interested in being on the committee. It was noted that Town has volunteer applications and the school uses letters of interest. Both are due by April 15th.

The Committee will be comprised of two School Board members, two Selectmen, and four community members (two chosen by the School Board and two chosen by the Board of Selectmen).

Mr. Harmon stated that one of the first things to look at could possibly be the finance department for town and school. Mr. Brickett is leaving in June 2018. The Town is currently looking for a new finance manager. Can we combine the two finance departments?

Mr. Wood opened the floor to public comment regarding the direction of the committee.

Gary Brown asked what the goal of the shared committee is. Mr. Wood responded that the goal is to find efficiency between the school and town as far as personnel and financial opportunities; to look at how to balance the needs for the town and the needs of the school. Mr. Brown stated that he believes a new school is not needed but that the town is in need of a new police station. He asked what has been done to bring new business into the town.

Ed French encouraged the School Board and Selectmen to look into other options to be more efficient in the use of resources. He suggested that the committee be very serious about cutting expenses.

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Mr. Saulnier stated that the committee should revisit those options that were voted down in the past, as well.

Christina Vogel stated that coming together as a community is a wonderful message. She suggested that the committee be larger than currently planned to get input from many perspectives. She noted that there is not currently any building aid. She suggested contacting representatives regarding this issue. Mrs. Vogel asked that any subcommittees for the school building be a large group.

Mr. Harmon clarified that the Shared Resources Committee from two years prior was about expenses, not building needs. He feels that addressing building needs would be a different committee. Mr. Wood stated that he sees it as a joint function, for the committee to look at all needs and then for individual committees to branch off from there. Mr. Harmon asked to establish the charge of the committee at this meeting.

Mrs. Small noted that the Shared Resources Committee had made some headway, for example, sharing the District Technology Director to work with the Town.

Public Input continued:

Rene Merriman stated that government always has waste, and that she will continue to work to vote down every bond until she can be assured there is no waste and that back taxes are collected.

Carol Watjus stated that it's good that the two boards are meeting and she hopes that they will listen to taxpayers. There are more issues than a police station and the school. She suggested input from more townspeople.

Mr. Barnes state the importance of publicizing to the community what the committee is doing.

Upon the individual members of both boards being polled, all expressed the need for one committee except for Mr. Harmon, who stated the need for two committees. Mr. Saulnier and Mrs. Serrine stated that the committee should address the building needs but a separate building committee(s) should be formed to consider buildings.

Mr. Harmon stated that right now there is only one School Board representative on the Shared Resources Committee. He stated that this committee, which is slightly different, may need different representation.

Mr. Barnes stated that he didn't see this committee addressing the buildings. Mrs. Serrine stated that the committee should be able to discuss the buildings, even if a different committee is formed to handle individual building needs.

It was agreed that the next meeting of this committee will be April 20th at 7:00 PM.

It was confirmed that representation would be two representatives from each board and two community members chosen by each board.

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Adjournment: MOTION: Michelle Couture moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to adjourn the meeting.
Voted unanimously in the affirmative. School Board meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Arsenault,
School Board Secretary