

Vocational Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2015
7:00 a.m.
Boxborough Town Hall

PRESENT: Susan Bak, Hugh Fortmiller, Anne McNeece, Brigid Bieber, Gary Kushner

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m.

1. The minutes of the November 18th meeting were accepted.

2. Charge for the Vocational Education Committee was reviewed:

A. Factors to be considered by the Committee:

a. A comparative evaluation table summarizing the factors that will be used to inform Boxborough's decision has been developed by the committee.

b. Costs of not belonging to a specific Vocational Technical Education district have been evaluated. Although per-student costs might be less, students might not get into the school of their choice or they might not get the program they would like. There might be an enrollment squeeze if we don't have an agreement with the school. Joining another district (i.e. Nashoba) might cost at least \$500,000 for the buy-in. However the long-term costs would probably be less than staying with MM (@\$45,000 per year for 30 yrs.) Per Pupil tuition for 2012 - MM-\$26,245, Nashoba Tech - \$15,104, Assabet- \$18,252. It is hard to predict enrollment for the future.

c. Minuteman's administrative costs are much higher than those of the other schools we have looked at.

d. There would be additional transportation costs if Boxborough sent students to more than one vocational school. Current transportation cost of sending a student MM is \$6,459 per year. It would be cheaper to send students to one school than to several. We will ask Assabet about transportation costs when we visit.

e. The counseling department at R.J.Grey would continue to advise students about their vocational options. Parents would assist with determining the right placement for their children. There should be no other additional administrative costs beyond those incurred by transportation.

f. Current IMAs are those written by Vince. The committee will ask Assabet if they have any IMAs. Nashoba does not as far as we have determined.

g. What happens to Boxborough students enrolled at MMRSD at the time of separation would continue to attend until graduation. There is a three-year waiting period to

withdraw. Students attending after our withdrawal would attend MM until their graduation.

h. Once accepted at a given district school Boxborough's tuition students would be guaranteed a seat through graduation.

i. Minuteman has more post-graduate options than Nashoba Tech.

j. Whether to allow the withdrawal of a member town would probably depend on the number of students sent to MM by that town.

B. Questions to be answered and action items:

1. Susan will ask the selectmen if they would like to revise the charge to "request a report" rather than a "recommendation".
2. Susan will ask Vince about the source of the IMAs he has provided.
3. Hugh will find out whether Nashoba had any kind of agreement with Ayer before they joined the district.
4. Have Concord's questions been answered?
5. What options do School Choice student have?

The next Meeting will be Friday, December 18th at 7 AM at Town Hall. We will discuss options available to Boxborough FAQ's.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Anne McNeece