



# Select Board

21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319

Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: [admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov)

## Select Board Special Meeting Minutes June 29, 2022

**Quorum present:** Select Board Members Kathleen Keresey, Chair, Andrew Potter and Andrew Krouss and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

**Others Present:** Lucy Prashker, Chair and Peter Taylor, Vice Chair of the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board and Jake Eberwein, Consultant.

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Marie introduced Lucy Prashker, Chair and Peter Taylor, Vice Chair of the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board along with consultant Jake Eberwein.

Lucy informed the Board that the Planning Board hired the research team headed by Jake Eberwein in June 2021. This team was charged with providing different models for the Planning Board to review and vote on the best overall model they feel will work for the Towns. The Planning Board voted on the model which the research team suggested as the preferred model. The model suggested would merge the 8 Towns into one district, maintain all the elementary and middle schools in their current place and merge the two high schools into one new high school on the Monument Mountain Regional High School campus. This model would expand educational opportunities through expanded programs and providing 8 vocational programs. Financially, it could save money through alignment of resources.

Lucy and Jake noted that there is a lot of work ahead for the Planning Board, especially with working on transportation planning and additional community outreach. The next step for the Planning Board will be to draft a new 8 Town agreement for the residents of the 8 Towns to vote on at their 2023 Annual Town Meetings.

Peter Taylor commented that community outreach over the next couple of months will be key to getting approval of the model. He will be working on several different formats, such as surveys, focus groups to include students, staff and teachers as well as media resources. The benefits of the suggested model include a larger, more diverse student body and increased

vocational and technology offerings. The many concerns include class size, the impact on teachers and staff, and transportation. Looking ahead there will be more public meetings, an effort to involve students and address their concerns as well as understanding both school cultures.

As for the educational aspect of the model, Jake believes this model will pull out the best of both current districts. The team will need to dig deep to understand what the needs are of both communities, what their shared values are and to get everyone to work together to make the new school district their own together.

Andy Potter asked if there has been any outreach to the Towns outside of the district, such as tuition agreement Towns. Jake responded that the research team was only assigned to look specifically at the 8 Towns but that they did expand the footprint. The team did recommend to the Planning Board to look at the tuition agreements and the different fees to charge each Town outside of the district. Andy then inquired if the model would have any impact to the transportation Chapter 71 money the district receives. Jake explained that currently the district receives about 70% of the transportation costs. He feels that this model would increase the chances of possibility receiving 100% due to the bargaining power that includes incentives of a shared district.

Kathleen asked what the Planning Board needs the Select Board to be doing to assist. Lucy suggested appointing another person the Planning Board since Roger Kavanagh has moved and his position should be filled for the Town of West Stockbridge. She also commented that if the Select Board has any new ideas to pass them along, especially if any comments or ideas come from the community.

The Select Board thanked Lucy, Peter and Jake for their presentation and update.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourned, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator