

*****March 15, 2017*****

The Signal Mountain School Viability Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Those present were: Committee Chair John Friedl
 Committee Vice-Chair Tom McCullough
 Committee Member Thomas Peterson
 Committee Member Amy Wakim
 Committee Member Charles Spencer
 Committee Secretary Melissa Wood

Others in attendance: Mayor Chris J. Howley
 Town Manager Boyd Veal
 Town Attorney Phillip Noblett
 Council Member and committee liaison Amy Speak
 see attached list for others present

Committee Chair John Friedl called the meeting to order and the roll was taken. The agenda called for the approval of previous meeting minutes. This item was deferred to the next meeting to give members a better chance to review documents.

Chairperson Friedl proposed the committee create subcommittees to focus on specific topics. His suggested subcommittee topics include Budget and organization, buildings, and legal questions/policy and procedures.

Thomas Peterson volunteered to look at Legal questions/policy and procedure. Amy Wakim volunteered to head up the budget subcommittee.

Charles Spencer questioned the committee and town officials on when we would consider hiring an outside consulting group to evaluate.

The committee would like to have a better understanding of current maintenance of buildings and any specific future capital expenditures for existing buildings.

Mayor Howley asked the committee to investigate synergies. The committee determined that much study will be required in regards to buildings including maintenance, capacity, and capital improvements.

As the committee moved to item five (Identify questions for committee to address), Boyd Veal and Tom McCullough reported their preliminary work in regards to the questions submitted to the county. They reported that the county has been very responsive.

Mayor Howley informed the committee that he will work with the county and determine the

appropriate means for communication between the committee members and Hamilton County employees.

A brief discussion about collected information occurred. The committee was directed to read documents that were sent via email. These documents are a part of the public files available.

Mayor Howley stated to the committee, "There is nothing wrong with exploring ways to improve education."

John Friedl distributed a list of questions, and Amy Wakim distributed a color-coded version of the same document that suggests to where the question should be directed.

Amy Wakim suggested the committee identify additional questions to be submitted to HCDE.

The committee moved on the next agenda item, a discussion of budgetary needs for committee activities. Legal clarifications and travel procedures were discussed.

The committee decided we will need to define when and to where travel will occur. We will also need to determine who will participate.

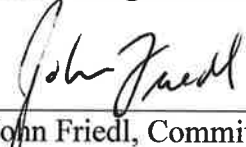
Town Manager Veal and Town Attorney Noblett reiterated the care the committee needs to take in the exchange of information.

Amy Wakim presented her findings from an interview with a transportation operator on costs and the busing operations here on the mountain.

Amy Speek addressed the audience.

The next scheduled meeting on April 5, 2017 at 7:00 PM

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



John Friedl, Committee Chair



Recorder