

THINK TANK COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Prescott Building – Groton

Attendees: Dennis Blair, Berta Erickson, Jim Frey, Jay Prager, Barbara St. Jean & Kevin Welch

Meeting called to order

Berta/Jay – Met with Superintendent regarding outsourcing and regionalization; no traction.

Committee had information from Gary via email regarding details on energy management and status.

Jim – received a call from School Committee Chair in Tyngsboro (Jeff Hunt ?) regarding what we can do jointly; both towns have budget issue. Jim sat in on meeting to see what we have been working on and offer what school committee is looking at; open conversation with Tyngsboro

- Virtual classes
- AP classes
- Regionalized transportation
- Share some SPED (program we have is Merrimack Education Cooperative) program cost
- Curriculum (now that we are site based, it is different than was when we started)
- E-Books or similar/laptops
- Library – working with schools; **NOTE: Jim** speaking with Marybeth Pallis, Director of Dunstable Public Library, or Sue Tully on how can they support elementary school

Jay speaking with Owen Sherman, Director of Groton Library.

SPED costs are an issue (may be one of the highest in the state). School committee can look at internal costs and outsource costs; looking at getting better as a program maybe having SPED from other towns into our system. Provide better services. Hard numbers are needed.

Berta is looking at getting hard numbers.

Barbara/Dennis – Discussed our meeting with Shelley Cohen and what she would like to see for students regarding Endowment. She was very receptive. Would like to see a written proposal for senior project. Very much up to the student if taken on.

Discussion on what is needed to start process. Look at who has recently done project, mentioned Karen Riggett, GDEF.

Jim speaking with GDEF about possibly connecting endowment with the foundation; how they maybe able to assist.

Jay is speaking with Valerie

Dennis and **Barbara** are to put together proposal for high school student.

Kevin – cost savings no head way
CPA person Sue Psaledakis
Steve has cost numbers on weather striping; needs to follow thru

Discussion from group: need assistance from school committee; need traction
Think Tanks' responsibility to see how viable each item is, present to school committee; school district can take and implement.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 5, 2009 @ 7:00p location: Prescott Building in Groton