1. Call to Order

Mr. Sanders called the meeting to order at 5:04

From Region 6 Board of Education: Mr. Richard Rebussman and Mr. Chris Sanders. From Region 6: Mrs. Amy Kennedy, Mr. Christopher Leone, and Mr. Sabin Loveland.

From Litchfield Board of Education Ad Hoc Committee: Mr. John Morosani, Ms. Gayle Carr, Dr. Jodiann Tenney, Mr. David Fiorillo, and Ms. Sherri Turner.

2. Review Health Insurance Benefit Plans

Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. Leone reviewed discussions between the two districts regarding potential savings in health care. Discussion ensued about obstacles based on contractual obligations, benefit packages, pool size, fully insured vs. self-insured, and timelines of contracts. Mr. Leone and Mr. Fiorillo found that savings are possible, but it would be easier to know a realistic goal and purpose for the committee and then route a method to shared health plans and potential savings.

3. Review Actual Enrollment in Shared Classes

There was a discussion on actual enrollment to date in shared classes. Mr. Loveland shared that 10 WAMOGO students and 2 LHS students were prepared to cross-register for classes. There have been some conflicts in classes and schedule, but this is ongoing. There was a meeting held between the guidance and administration of the two schools. This meeting will help facilitate greater communication on potential shared classes and increase potential registration.

Additionally, Mr. Loveland shared that WAMOGO would adjust its 4th period time, and end of the day, to help facilitate this cooperative effort. The committee agreed that this first year is symbolic and steps are being taken in the right direction.

Mr. Leone and Mrs. Turner shared the draft MOU that will be sent to each Board of Education in early June for Approval. Once that MOU is approved a joint release will be issued. Mr. Leone and Mrs. Turner will cooperatively draft that release prior to the first week of June.

4. Business Operations Sharing

Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. Leone shared collaboration efforts here along lines of substitutes for FMP, Nurses, Substitute Teachers that can be developed over time. Mr. Fiorillo shared the concept of shared services in IT which will be discussed. This is an ongoing area of cooperation between the two districts.
5. Other Business

Mr. Morosani reported that on May 2 he attended a Legislative Sub-committee meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE). The meeting was to discuss regionalization. Matthew Venhorst, a CSBE attorney, spoke briefly about the three methods that schools can use under Connecticut law to work together to share services: 1) shared services, 2) a cooperative agreement, and 3) full regionalization. He introduced the Superintendents of Salem and East Lyme who gave a presentation on the cooperative agreement under which Salem sends its grade 9-12 students to East Lyme. By all accounts, the agreement has worked well for both towns and their students as indicated by the renewal for a second twenty-year period. Mr. Venhorst indicated that he would be willing to come to our region to discuss with our two districts ways to share services and resources.

There was a discussion about what is the long-term goal of this group. Dr. Tenney of Litchfield stated that it was important to know these long-term intentions. There was discussion about the potential for a joint-retreat to learn more about potential collaboration. It was recommended that this be facilitated by a third-party. Mr. Sanders concurred and that committee members would return to discuss long-term goals with their respective Boards of Education before setting up the next meeting.

6. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:58.

Respectfully submitted,

John Morosani
Recording Secretary