

COMMITTEE OF TEN

MEETING MINUTES and notes

January 22, 2008

Attendees:

Dan Callahan Eric Coulter Stacey Gramley Jeannette Neeld Cheryl Brown Kristen Wurzburger
Stefanie Carey Rachel Fowler Vic Johnson Neil Truman Chris Rooth Dick Robinson
Community members

*** Regular joint board meeting took place with tour of Apollo Elementary. After report from Committee of 10, the joint Boards separated to another location.**

I. Committee of 10 Report to Board- Vic Johnson

- ❖ Website in the works
- ❖ Letter to community is finished
- ❖ Sub-committee co-chairs have been assigned
- ❖ Gathering sub-committee members
- ❖ Chris Rooth and Dick Robinson have been asked to attend meetings as the alternate Committee members

II. Committee of 10 meeting with Legal Counsel

- ❖ Set time limits for meetings- each subject 30 minutes (approx.)
- ❖ Scott Brunton from Miller Hall and Triggs – legal advice on consolidation
 - Legislature changed some consolidation guidelines
 - make more consistent
 - Gave a basic run down of “Things to Do” in preparation
 - Petition needs to be put together to present to ROE (Regional Office of Education)
 - 50 signatures from both districts
 - Need Time line to count down to election day (we have one already)
 - Make proposal for ROE (Legal Counsel will review before hand)
 - ROE publishes notice of petition
 - Decide date for hearing and petition
 - ROE has public hearing – Committee of 10 will present
 - Can be contested (by someone with evidence that procedures weren’t followed, for example)
 - Board can hire new superintendent immediately after yes
 - Options on the vote
 - Consolidation Yes / No
 - Tax Rate
 - Board elections at same time or later
 - Can gauge whether or not more time is needed during process
 - Answers to some Questions
 - Petitions to leave district are not C of 10’s problems
 - It’s ok to ask others to join district
 - We do not necessarily need a 501c3 – just an organization with bylaws
 - Open an account for money
 - Possible treasurer
 - 501c3 is so donations can be written off for taxes
 - Marketing Consolidation
 - Questions on how far schools can go in marketing consolidation
 - Laws are very gray in IRS codes for non profit orgs.
 - Also gray on Spending money for marketing a referendum
 - improving district is the loophole
 - info needs to be objective
 - Legal Fees
 - School Districts are splitting costs
 - Prep for hearing is the biggest expense
 - Estimation \$8000.00
 - ½ that if everything goes smoothly
 - Items being checked on
 - How BOE terms can be staggered

- How bonds will be paid by each district
- Is there a limit to spending for a referendum
- Getting copy of new laws
- Checking to see if 3 and 3 and 1 at large board comp. is possible

III. C of 10 discussion

- ❖ Alternates introduced
 - Chris Rooth – Westmer
 - Dick Robinson – Aledo
- ❖ Things to do
 - Have Tax Assessor (Rengier) at next meeting
 - Test new EAVs
 - Feas. Study recommended 4.14
- ❖ Discussed Board composition (Some controversy)
 - Choices
 - At large
 - Draw lines for new voting districts (according to population)
 - Very expensive to hire geographer to divide into districts
 - Lawyer is checking into 3 from each district and 1 at large
 - Aledo outnumbers Westmer in a vote 2 to 1
- ❖ Discussion on next meetings
 - It was decided to start on Curriculum – February 12th at **Aledo Junior High (with tour)**
 - Other sub-committee info. will be generated from these results
 - Finance will also meet **1st week of February**
 - Sub-Committee possible will be called to find out which they are interested in

IV. Next Meetings

- ❖ Finance will meet 1st week of February
- ❖ February 12th, Aledo Junior High (with tour)
 - Curriculum