Town of Greenwich
Selectmen's Board of Education Charter Revision Committee
Meeting 4 October 2016
7:00 p.m.
Employee Lounge in Town Hall

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

a. Attendance:

I. Committee members: Barry Rickert, William Finger, Peter von Braun, Joan Caldwell (Chair), Brian Peldunas (Secretary) – Present.

II. Other attendees: Rich DiPreta.

2. Minutes

By motion of Mr. Finger, seconded by Mr. von Braun, the minutes of the 27 September 2016 meeting were approved as written, 5-0.

3. Discussion of answers already received from Law Department (if received) and from Secretary of State (if received).

The committee reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by the Law Department. The document raised more questions than it answered. Mr. Rickert prefers that the Law Department answer the questions as posed. Ms. Caldwell will speak with Mr. Fox. The committee discussed the 1975 RTM Resolution, and the apparent requirement to use the word “Petition” on the ballot for any candidate petitioning on as an unaffiliated candidate. The committee discussed contacting the local legislators to inquire about possible changes to this requirement.

No response was received from the Secretary of State’s office. Mr. Peldunas will contact the Registrars to obtain status.

4. Framing of additional questions, if any

In framing additional questions, the key will be to understand which statutes apply to the Town of Greenwich, based on state law and Greenwich’s Charter. Additional question: Can home rule override any statutes?
5. Review and discussion of documents, and general discussion.

The committee discussed other groups or individuals to invite to the meetings. Ms. Caldwell will speak with Josh Brown (RTM Education Committee Chair). Mr. Peldunas will contact current BoE members and PTAC representatives. Other possible invitees include former superintendents and former BoE Chairs. Additional question for BoE members: is the lack of a tie breaking vote constricting on the actions of the board?

Mr. Finger suggested producing a timeline for our efforts. Tentative schedule: 10 October (changed from 11 October due to holiday) – meet with current BoE members; 18 October – review answers from Law Department and Secretary of State; 25 October – meet with RTM Education Committee, PTAC and former BoE Chairs; 1 November – public hearing; 9 Nov – public hearing; 22 November – analysis and discussion of information gathered; 29 November – drafting of report and discussion of recommendations; 6 December – voting. This will allow presentation to the Board of Selectmen on 8 December for BoS hearings.

The committee discussed a high level outline of a findings report:

- Charge and history
- Determination of possible BoE Board structures, including number of members, terms, and party impact
- Determination of limits imposed by state statutes
- Summary of public input
- Pros and cons of alternatives, including specifically addressing the Charge
- Recommendation

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Finger, seconded by Mr. von Braun, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

The next committee meeting is tentatively planned for 7 p.m. Monday 10 October at a location to be determined.

Joan Caldwell, Chair

Prepared by Brian Peldunas, Secretary