

Newport County Unified High School
Exploratory Committee
Minutes

6:00 - 7:15 PM – Wednesday July 30, 2014 – Middletown Public Library

Attendees

Present: **Barbara A. VonVillas**, Middletown Town Council, Chair; **Richard P. Adams**, Middletown Town Council; **Marco T. Camacho**, Newport City Council; **Kellie E. DiPalma**, Middletown School Committee

Not Present: **William R. O'Connell**, Middletown School Committee; **Naomi L. Neville**, Newport City Council; **Justin S. McLaughlin**, Newport City Council, Vice Chair; **Sandra J. Flowers**, Newport School Committee; **Robert B. Power**, Newport School Committee

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of July 7, 2014 was deferred.

Discussion

(A quorum not being present the following is for information only.)

Rhode Island Foundation Discussions

Discussions with the Foundation were held on July 10th. The Foundation indicated that funding would probably be available to support community discussions, studies and analyses following approval of the referenda in Middletown and Newport.

Foundation staff indicated that in general they have provided support for issues that were non-political, did not involve advocacy, and had implications for the entire state.

Discussions with Salve Regina University and Roger Williams University

Informal discussions with Salve Regina University (SRU) Pell Center and Roger Williams University (RWU) staff were initiated to explore the use of students and faculty to conduct focus groups and if time and resources permit an informational program. The formation of a Political Action Committee (PCC) was also discussed.

Meetings with SRU and RWU staff are planned for the last week in August.

Informal Discussion and Information Distribution

A general discussion was held of how information could be distributed to the communities and how various stakeholder groups might be involved in that process. Also discussed was how social media and email might be employed to assist in an informational program.

Small Schools Proliferation

The present committee members discussed the recent award by the Carnegie Foundation of funding to create small, specialized high schools in Providence and efforts to establish Charter Schools in Newport County. The discussion centered on how this fragmentation of schools would affect education and especially how smaller schools might serve students who will not go on to college but need career-technical training and education.

Attachments

None

Proposed Meetings Calendar

The next meeting is Wednesday August 20th at 6:00 PM at the Middletown Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Richard Adams