

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting with members of the Board of Finance and Board of Education on November 27, 2017 at the Board of Education Conference Room with First Selectman Sandra Pierog presiding. Also in attendance were: Selectmen Michael Eremita and Robert Morra; Board of Finance members Robert Galle, Emily Bradley and Richard Tuthill; Board of Education members Katherine Galle, Scott Rich and Andrew Broneill; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Recreation Director Kyleen Welchman; Superintendent Kristin Heckt; Bolton Music Works President Loretta Kepanis; Music teachers Katie Desrosiers and Daniel Ayer; Booster Club representative Dan Callahan; and representing Youth Baseball and Softball Tanya Laplante and Dale Werkhoven.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Pierog called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Discussion on Outreach Efforts

The contract with Columbia for their students to attend Bolton High School ends in 2022. To date, this has been a positive relationship between the communities. The group discussed at length past, current and possible future outreach activities to the Town of Columbia, its residents and school system.

On the Town side, ongoing conversations occur as to possible shared services including Route 6 economic development. Recreation department reaches out for trips, camps, cross events between the towns and youth basketball opportunities. In addition, all Bolton recreation activities are posted in Columbia as well.

From the youth sports perspective, programs continue to reach out for the various youth sports programs but sufficient coaches for the sports is a concern. There is also a difference in baseball programs between the two towns – Little League versus Cal Ripken. At the high school competitive sports level, the group discussed Bolton’s size is a positive in that more students are able to play on a team and a negative in that Bolton plays in the smallest schools’ division.

Within the music department, outreach efforts include possible combined or exchange concerts and community band opportunities. The Board of Education and Superintendent continues outreach efforts with Columbia highlighting the quality of our educational system.

Next steps discussed included a joint meeting of the groups represented at this meeting with the Columbia counterparts tentatively scheduled for January 31, 2018 at the Bolton High School Commons. A meeting of the Town and school leaders from the two communities will also occur. Lastly, the contract with Columbia for students will be reviewed by a couple of representatives of the Board of Finance and Board of Education.

3. Discussion on Shared Services

Discussion was postponed.

4. Discussion on Budget

The latest reduction by the Governor to Bolton was a \$241,457 further cut in ECS.

5. Discussion on Future Meetings

The group agreed to meet on the fourth Monday of the month beginning in January.

6. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce M. Stille
Administrative Officer

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.