



# WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chaplin Columbia Coventry Hampton Lebanon Mansfield Scotland Willington Windham

**Ad-Hoc Regionalism Committee  
EO Smith High School Media Center  
Tuesday, May 26, 2009  
5:00 pm**

## Meeting Notes

Attending: will update

Bruce Silva opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. All of the participants introduced themselves and Bruce continued with a brief overview of the Ad-Hoc Committee. He noted it was important to understand that the committee is just Ad-Hoc, as Ron Harris (State Dept of Ed) recently gave a brief overview to the Region 19 BOE about the difference between an official committee and Ad-Hoc. Essentially the committee is being formed to research the possibility of Region 19 including K-9 grades from Willington, Ashford and Mansfield. It is the intent of the committee to gather as much accurate data that is needed to make an informed decision as to regionalize or not to regionalize. It was later noted that we should include pre-K as well, and to also consider some areas that could be cooperatively shared without full regionalization.

Bruce introduced Mark Paquette, Executive Director of the Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG), who he noted had been recommended by Fran Archambault to facilitate the committee. Bruce felt strongly that he (himself) should not be the person facilitating the discussion. The group unanimously endorsed Mark to coordinate the Ad-Hoc Regionalism Committee.

Matt Hart started the discussion by asking if Ron Harris could come back and give a brief presentation to the committee. He also suggested the committee look at other regional initiatives.

**ACTION Needed: Bruce will contact him and Mark will send an email out to the committee with possible meeting dates before June 23.**

Matt also asked for a list of all current regional sharing agreements/cooperatives/services amongst the Willington, Ashford and Mansfield

**ACTION Needed: All superintendents will gather this info and submit to Bruce**

The committee also requested copies of all districts Contracts / Staffing / Budgets.

**ACTION Needed: All superintendents will gather this info and submit to Bruce**

It was initially suggested that the committee split up into 4 subgroups of finance/governance, personnel, facilities/transportation, and Curriculum/Special Services/equity. The committee agreed to stay as one and not breakup, as the group is limited in size. There was discussion regarding the goal of cost savings, but it was pointed out by several members that an important goal should be the benefit it would have to the students.

**Committee Governance:** It was agreed that Bruce would post the minutes and agendas on the Region 19 website and the other districts would post a link on their websites.

The Committee came up with the following questions/suggestions:

Obtain the present costs of Administration, Transportation and Special Ed and any outside contracted services (legal,etc) for each district!

Would there be a cost savings?

Create a list of possible benefits!

What about the equity issue?

Where would the space be?

How would programs and space be redistributed?

Recognize Willington has a middle school!  
What is the optimum size for a school?  
How to fund a district? Taxing District?  
Where are programs comparable and where are they different?  
Research other pre-K-9 districts!  
Review state strategic plans! Obtain SSP's for other regional districts!

In conclusion, it was noted that we should focus on the objective issues first. Getting into the redistribution of space/facilities should not be at the top of the list.

Mark asked the committee to forward him any other questions that may be of value and at the next meeting, we'll have Ron Harris at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Mark N. Paquette

DRAFT