

Final Copy:
Three Municipalities/SHRHS Work Group on SHRHS Charter

Three Municipalities/South Work Group on SHRHS ('SHRHS Work Group' or 'Work Group')

Charter/Mission:

The Work Group was established as a result of negotiations that occurred among the town councils of Lambertville, Stockton and West Amwell and the school board as a result of a failed budget referendum in Lambertville (Failed 68% to 32%) and West Amwell (Failed 59% to 41%), but which was approved in Stockton (Passed 55% to 45%). During the process many citizens and town councils expressed concerns about the fact that SHRHS per-pupil-costs are the highest in the state and substantially higher than any state averages or medians.

The mission of the Work Group is to first, clearly understand the factors that contribute to the high per-pupil costs at SHRHS. This will require a clear understanding of SHRHS's budget process and the key factors influencing the budget. The Work Group shall develop a baseline set of facts/data from which to rigorously review the cost-drivers at SHRHS. Second, the Work Group shall explore cost-saving measures and make written recommendations to the SHRHS Board and administration for consideration.

The creation of the Work Group does not affect statutorily-derived responsibilities: the SHRHS Board and Administration maintain responsibility for developing its budget, and the three municipalities maintain their responsibility to review the budgets in the event the voters do not approve the budget and take action accordingly. The Work Group, as a body, does not have authority to mandate action by the SHRHS Board.

Goal/Objective

To understand the factors that contribute to the high per-pupil-cost at SHRHS, to identify short-term and long-term recommendations to increase the efficiency of the delivery of a thorough and efficient educational program at SHRHS, and to reduce the burden on tax-payers in the three municipalities.

Focus

At a minimum, the following areas will be reviewed:

- Special Education
- Programs
- Personnel
- Extra Curricular
- Facility Operations

Discussion may include many other topics.

Approach

The Work Group shall appoint a Chair and Vice Chair from the municipalities. The Chair or in his or her absence the Vice Chair will run the meetings. The SHRHS Board and administration shall appoint a Work Group Leader, who shall serve at the point of contact for data requests and shall help with the development of the meeting agendas. The Chair and the South Work Group Leader shall be responsible for developing and distributing meeting agendas prior to the meeting.

The Work Group will meet at least every two months, and for the first 9 months, will meet at least on a monthly basis. The meetings will not be open public meetings. The group will develop a baseline set of facts/data from which to rigorously review and understand the cost-drivers at SHRHS. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes or as agreed to be the participants.

Meetings will be structured so as to ensure a focused, organized and comprehensive assessment of cost drivers.

The meetings will maintain an atmosphere for open and secure dialog and the exchange/sharing of ideas/opinions/recommendations.

All discussions will be held confidential unless the Work Group agrees to the release of specific discussions for public distribution. Distribution will be through the Chair, after consultation with the SHRHS Work Group Leader.

All documents distributed will be considered non-confidential unless otherwise noted and agreed to by the Work Group. Any information required to be treated as confidential by applicable law, shall be so treated.

In between meetings individual Work Group members will have time to absorb the information provided or discussed, for any final recommendations or conclusions to be shared at the beginning of the next upcoming meeting.

Work Group Membership

As noted in Lambertville's Resolution 2009-58 ,the committee will comprised of:

- Two (2) members of the Lambertville governing body (Ward Sanders, Beth Asaro - - councilpersons)
- Two (2) residents of the City of Lambertville (Drew Gitomer and Larry Simms - as appointed by Mayor Del Vecchio)
- Representatives of the Township of West Amwell governing body (
 - Resident(s) appointed by the Township of West Amwell
 - Representatives of the Borough of Stockton governing body
 - Resident(s) appointed by the Borough of Stockton
 - Representatives of the South Hunterdon Regional High School Board of Education
- Hunterdon County Superintendent

Stephen Giocondo	Stockton	sgiocondo@hotmail.com
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Roles and Responsibilities

The school administration and board will provide information and insight regarding the current and planned SHRHS budget costs related to the specific focus areas, employing both formal presentations and *ad hoc* discussions during the meetings. Presentations will be structured so as to foster open dialog/questions.

The Municipal and community representatives will provide input, feedback and recommendations for consideration by the SHRHS Administration and Board for cost-saving measures or budgetary adjustments.

Meeting Location

At SHRHS Library until further notice.

Approved 12/1/09 [But modified to reflect membership on the date it was finalized. These modifications include the additions of Andrew Dougherty and Tom Molnar, and the deletion of Bill Corboy as members of the Work Group.]