

Longmeadow Charter Commission Minutes
DATE: January 14, 2004 TIME: 6:30-7:47 PM
PLACE: School Committee Meeting Room Longmeadow High School

This was the 28th meeting of the Longmeadow Charter Commission. Present: Susan R. Altman, Kathleen E. Grady, William Hoff, Arlene C. Miller (Vice Chair), Roger F. Nadeau Joseph A. Occhiuti, Rebecca M. Townsend (Clerk), Absent: R. Peter Landon, Roger B. Wojcik (Chair). . Also present: Mr. Thomas Groux, charter advisor.
No members of the public were present.

1. Seeing no members of the public present, Ms. Miller opened and closed public comment time.
2. Ms. Miller announced that **the Charter Commission's next meeting would be January 21, 2004 at 7:00pm, in the Longmeadow High School Teachers' Lounge**, to discuss the upcoming public hearings and future dates for meetings.
3. Mr. Occhiuti announced that the **Public Hearings on the Preliminary Charter Report would be Thursday February 5, 2004, 7:00-9:00pm. The next would be Saturday February 7, 2004 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Both Public Hearings would be in the Longmeadow High School Cafeteria.** LCTV will tape the Thursday session, to be re-played on LCTV. Mr. Occhiuti checked the dates to ensure that there were no sporting events scheduled.
4. Ms. Miller opened review of the minutes of January 7, 2004. Members discussed the preferable level of detail. Dr. Grady asked that a sentence of substance from the statement be included in item 5, to clarify the additional detail that follows it. Mr. Occhiuti moved that they be accepted as corrected. Ms. Altman and Dr. Grady seconded, and all members approved the minutes as corrected.
5. Ms. Miller thanked Dr. Grady for re-writing the Executive Summary/Introduction to the Charter in a way that captured members' discussion. Members reviewed the re-written summary. Mr. Groux would ask Attorney General Ritchie questions that arose during discussion: Dr. Grady wondered if the a charter commission is required to change size and term of the school committee, and Ms. Altman asked which names would be signed to the Executive Summary. Ms. Townsend moved that the Executive Summary be accepted with corrections. Mr. Hoff and Mr. Nadeau seconded, and the summary was approved, with Ms. Altman opposed.
6. Ms. Miller opened **review of the draft charter dated January 13, 2004.** Members offered proofreading edits, and other concerns. Dr. Grady noted that page 7, concerning changing the percentage of signatures needed to bring an item to referendum and the percentage required to reverse a Town Meeting decision contained the word "increased" yet Commission members' decision was in favor of the word "changed." Mr. Groux said that with the word "changed" the percent could conceivably be lowered to 1. Mr. Hoff said that the problem with "increased" is that if the numbers went up too high to be accessible to average people, they could never be brought back down again. Members agreed the word "changed" should be used. Ms. Townsend marked all corrections to her copy and Mr. Groux gave her the charter report computer disks. She will make all corrections to those copies, send it to the Commission members, and print it out. Mr. Wojcik will call with instructions on the process of delivering the charter to the Reminder

and the state offices. The Executive Summary, with Ms. Altman listed as opposed, should be inserted at the beginning of the Report.

7. **Ms. Miller called for a motion to accept the Preliminary Charter as changed.** Mr. Occhiuti moved to accept; Mr. Nadeau seconded. **All in favor: Grady, Hoff, Miller, Nadeau, Occhiuti, and Townsend. Opposed: Altman. Absent: Landon, Wojcik.** **The Preliminary Charter (with changes decided up to and including 1/14/04) was accepted.** Ms. Altman asked when a minority report could be printed. Dr. Grady noted that the Home Rule Procedures Act indicates that if there is a minority report, it must be printed with the Final Report. It is limited to 1000 words and must be filed with the Chair of the Charter Commission within two days of the Commission's approval of the Final Report. Ms. Miller asked members for their preferences concerning a minority report to the Preliminary Report. If the Attorney General's office determines that the detail concerning a minority report to the Final Report is applicable to the Preliminary Report as well, then members indicated that they would like a chance to read the minority report. If that were the case, Ms. Altman said that she would print it out in advance. If the law is silent on this matter, Ms. Miller asked members if the report should not be included with the Preliminary Report. In favor of omitting the minority report with the Preliminary Report (if the law is silent on the matter): Grady, Hoff, Miller, Nadeau, Occhiuti, and Townsend. Opposed: Altman. It was the consensus of the group that, especially without seeing it in advance, the minority report should not be printed with the Preliminary Report. Mr. Groux would check with Assistant Attorney General Ritchie for clarification of the law and would email commission members as soon as he receives the answer.
8. **The Preliminary Report is due to the Reminder by January 16, 2004. It would be printed on January 26, 2004.**
9. Ms. Miller announced that she and Ms. Townsend would be speaking to the Republican Town Committee following this meeting in the Community House.
10. Mr. Occhiuti moved to adjourn meeting. Mr. Hoff seconded. Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Approved January 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca M. Townsend, Clerk