

Peacham School Expansions Committee
April 4, 2007 Meeting Minutes
Unapproved

Present: Marceya Roy, Jean Dedam, Martha Evangelista
Meeting began about 6:05

Organization: Marceya agreed to chair the committee, Jean will be the clerk. Martha said she did not want to be considered a committee member but would visit as many as she could.

Marceya suggested the committee should get information on the legal capacity for the number of people that the school can hold according to fire codes. Martha said she would ask Cheryl Stevenson who probably has that number.

Marceya brought up the need for an updated school census to determine what will be required to meet the needs of the 7th and 8th grades each year as the classes progress through. Marceya volunteered to develop a chart that would show how many kids will be in each grade for the next 5-10 years. Martha offered to provide an updated census with the information available now.

Finally, Marceya suggested that we will need to know the certifications of the current teaching staff to see who is certified and in what areas for Middle School. Martha offered to get that information also.

Jean suggested that we look at what is needed for curriculum, standards, and extracurricular activities.

Martha asked what the goal of the committee is. We agreed on the following goal statement – To evaluate the feasibility of integrating 7th and subsequently 8th grades into Peacham Elementary School and the community.

Discussed space and furniture/equipment needs. Currently have five rooms for 60 students. Adding 7th and 8th grades would require space for about 22 more students. Marceya suggested we develop a wish list for books and computer programs for donations from community members. The tech person at Danville or Suzanne Rhodes could assist with evaluating program needs. We should explore potential partnerships such as working with Danville for provision of some services like a foreign language or sports. Those schools interested in recruiting Peacham kids for high school could be asked to provide some program support for our middle school program.

Other suggestions for research – visit other middle schools in the area in different configurations such as Barnet K-8, Danville K-12, Riverside and Stevens School. Also we should look at statewide configurations. We agreed that quality special education services are essential and that students receiving services benefit from consistency in the delivery of those services.

We decided that we should meet with the teaching staff at Peacham Elementary to explore options. Jean will invite them and arrange a meeting time.

The next meeting will be on April 17 at 6 PM at the elementary school. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.