

Peacham School Expansions Committee
May 17, 2007 Notes from Teacher interviews
Unapproved

Present: Marceya Roy, Jean Dedam, Wendy Olcott-Nelson, Janice Briscoe, Sarah Parker, Martha Evangelista

Teacher Certification: Wendy said she had spoken to John Bacon about what would be required for teacher certification for 7th/8th grade in a K-8 school. John said he thought that the general certification would be sufficient. Need to verify.

Space: Cannot have a separate wing. The room closest to the cafeteria is largest. Marceya suggested adding an outside hallway on one side of the building for extra space and to keep younger and older kids from bumping into each other in the hallway. Could provide extra storage also. Jean suggested a solarium on a room for additional space and science. If the 5/6 and 7/8 teachers are both certified in a couple of Middle School special areas, they could team teach but then the classrooms should be adjacent to each other. Storage space a problem now, specials are currently being taught in a classroom that would have to be used for a regular class. The log cabin may be possible additional space but will need to be assessed by Neal Gombas and upgraded. Possible use of passive solar heating/radiant heating and photovoltaics – advice from Dave Magnus? Water would also need to be resolved.

Equipment: Probably have enough tables, will need additional chairs. Library budget and other regular budget could be utilized for curriculum materials. Grants for some tech and other equipment? Check with Cher Monteith and Suzanne Rhodes.

Staffing: Need one additional full time teacher preferably male with certification in Middle School specialties. Kathy Renfrew may be able to attain certification with her current training but would like to get additional training on the developmental concerns of Middle School level students. Marceya would like all teachers in the school to receive some training so that everyone is capable of understanding and managing situations that might come up in school common space. Discuss developmental concerns with the guidance person.

Extras: sports with Danville or Barnet or start a Peacham team that would boost school spirit. Should have money to pay a coach. Approach St. Jay Academy, Danville High School, Cabot School, and Blue Mountain for teachers or class time in tech ed, music, art, language, etc. Peacham students would become familiar with other schools and help with transition, the schools would better understand the needs of the students entering their schools and it would assist them with recruitment.

Transition: Possibly retain choice in the first year of transition but utilize the personal learning plans to develop curriculum for those students who choose to stay in Peacham. Kathy Renfrew is on several Middle School list serves and will send out an email requesting information from any K-8 schools that have made a transition from K-6 to K-8.

Next steps: Need a work session to develop a more detailed plan. Marceya suggested taking the floor plan and pretend the school has been empty for a couple of years and start from the bottom up with space, staff, equipment and a budget through a transition period. Need additional input. Survey current parents to determine how much interest there is in a K-8 program (Wendy will draft). Set a work meeting for Wednesday, June 6 beginning at 1 PM at the school when the children will be at the Fairbanks Museum. Include Neal Gombas, Tina Feron, Dave Magnus, Omri Parsons, Nene Riley, Diana (guidance), Suzanne Rhodes, Alice Ruffner, Cher Monteith.

Wendy will ask the teachers, staff and Suzanne to attend.

Marceya will contact Cher.

Jean will contact Omri and Neal

Dave was in the school and agreed to attend.