

Expansion Committee Report Summary

It is feasible to add 7th & 8th grades to the Peacham Elementary School in the current physical space with the addition of one full time teacher and some additional specials.

Peacham's Strengths: The committee concluded that Peacham Elementary School's strength lies in its small size, its record of above average academic achievement (Dept. of Ed. School Results), and the Personal Learning Plans (see description attached) that it has incorporated into the instructional program at the school. The PLP's could be the center of an individualized approach to the specific interests of these students. With a small program, it would be more feasible to offer exploratory field trips that are subject specific or would expose students to fields of work or post secondary educational opportunities that would guide them in their selection of high school course work and career planning. The small size of the program would make it feasible to engage community and adult family members as mentors or instructors in specials for our students. This approach would help students maintain their connection with the community and the community to them. Community service, already a part of the 6th grade program, could also be extended with 7th and 8th grades. It would also put Peacham in the vanguard of a proposal by the State Board of Education for reorganization of our schools on the basis of personal learning plans.

Options for specials: Danville School offers a year long program including 45 minute classes in 6 sections (keyboarding, tech ed, foreign language, family and consumer science, health & art) of 6 weeks each for \$1,270/child/year in 2007/2008 year. Peacham could select sections from the list at \$212/child/section. (Meg Powden – Danville Principal)

Waterford 8th grade students are accessing tech ed at St. Johnsbury Academy for a 6 week period 8:30-11:00 AM for the first time this year. St. Johnsbury Academy has also set up vertical integrated teaming meetings by department with teachers in area sending schools to share information on curriculum materials and preparation expected for students entering the Academy. (Jennifer Wood, Cynthia Knight, Mary Ann Gessner).

Options for Sports: Currently Peacham students have been welcomed and are participating in team sports at both Danville and Barnet. The Peacham Parent Teacher group donates some funds to each of the schools in support of their sports. Participation in social events in both Danville and Barnet with parent volunteer support is a possibility.

Finances:

Annual Budget for 14 7/8 students

Staff - 1 FTE + 2 days/wk specials	80,000	1/2 day guidance, nurse, art, PE			
Instructional materials/yr	\$1,500				
Transportation -special	\$2,000				
2 specials/child - Danville \$212 ea.	\$5,936	Options include - keyboarding, tech ed, foreign language, family & consumer science, health & art			
Total	\$89,436				