

April 10, 2007
6:30 PM

Merger and Collaboration Workgroup

Present:

Rob Ide, Jo Anne Post, Deanne Alex, Jane Woodhouse

Jane was appointed chair.

The group discussed possibilities for merging or collaborating with schools in the surrounding area.

Jo Anne mentioned that Winton Goodrich had explained the 3 types of mergers with the board at the school board retreat. They range from a designation to a more structured joint governance. Jo Anne will follow up and get specific definitions and requirements for each of these.

Rob asked that we obtain census figures for children who will be entering school in Peacham to go back to newborns. We need to have these figures as we go forward.

We discussed a list of schools that would be likely prospects for a merger or collaboration. They include:

- Danville
- Barnet
- St. Johnsbury
- Blue Mtn. Union
- Cabot
- Walden
- Waterford
- Monroe

We will need to determine additional costs above possible sending tuition that the town would responsible for or would continue to pay. For example the issue of transportation was raised. The general consensus was that even though not legally required we should consider providing that service if a bus did not come from the receiving school. If students are sent here from another town we will need to consider the cost/benefits of providing that service to those students.

We will begin to contact school boards to determine which ones would be interested in speaking with us. We will impress that this is simply a fact finding exercise. To begin the process we will contact the Danville and Barnet school boards. Rob will call Fred Kitchel, the chair of the Danville school board and Jane will contact Nancy Frank who is chair of the Barnet school board. We will

need to develop a letter but will use the informal phone call to ask if they are interested in receiving a letter and talking to us.

Deanne asked about turning Peacham into an early childhood center focusing on preschool and the lower grades. It was reported that a discussion with Barnet to move preschool (CREEP) to Peacham had been rejected by the Barnet School Board at a recent meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Woodhouse
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