

Minutes

Committee for School as is, with Revisions

Monday, June 18, 2007

Peacham Elementary School

Present: Cathy Browne, Debra Vogini, Phoebe Courtot

Meeting called to order at 11:00am.

1. We approved the minutes of May 7.
2. Debra reported on her conversation with George Mathias. The program is called the Perpetual Affordability Land Trust Model. He has information he would be willing to share at a public meeting in Peacham regarding this model. The town or a private citizen would make the land available, and Gilman Housing would act as stewards of the land through a covenant constructed with the town. Gilman Housing would obtain funding for construction. Potential homebuyers would go through a screening process to meet certain criteria. Grant money is available for the market feasibility study, which would need to be approved by the town. Debra will talk with Gib Parrish of the planning commission, to coordinate a public informational meeting with George Mathias. Cathy will discuss the possibility with the town selectboard.
3. Cathy has not yet met with Wendy Olcott regarding space availability. She will do so, however concerns raised regarding school safety issues and other financial issues raised by the town selectboard do not appear to make sharing the school building a possibility in the near future. We will also continue to look at some figures for special education in small vs. larger schools; however these costs can fluctuate widely and are difficult to project.
4. Cathy will talk with JoAnne about the school board appointing a committee as discussed at our last meeting that would support the school in two ways: 1. To locate and obtain grant funding for the school and 2. To promote and coordinate community use of the school building and grounds.
5. We discussed Education Commissioner Richard Cate's proposed school governance changes. We will look at some of his ideas to see how they would impact small schools. Of primary interest are ways to reduce shared costs in small schools, in terms of administration, school staff, supplies, and other resources.
6. Cathy will talk to JoAnne to arranging a meeting to go over current school budget figures, and to pinpoint areas where any of our possible ideas (grants, sharing resources, and lowering tuition rate) could make an impact on the budget. We will also ask about school board decisions regarding lowering the announced tuition rate.
7. Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Browne