

Peacham School Community Meeting
Sunday June 24, 2007
3:00 – 5:00 PM

UNAPPROVED

Present: School Board members-Jo Anne Post, Wynne Browne, Jean Dedam;
Community Members – Dave Stauffer, Julie Hansen, Marceya Roy, Cathy Browne,
Mark Clough, Wendy Morgan
Jo Anne opened the meeting at 3:04.

Committee Reports

School Choice – Mark said that Wendy is writing the report and would share the template they are using. They have gathered data and sourced all the information they are using. They are gathering information on special education and working on a prototype budget for two options, privatizing the school or full choice. It was pointed out that if the school were privatized it would still be full choice because Peacham students could not be required to attend it. Wendy has been looking at governance and what the law says must be provided. Financial data for a budget is difficult to obtain. The committee would like to have a draft of the report circulated early so they have time to collect comments or questions and address them in the final report.

- Discussion Would board have an advocacy function for Peacham children attending private or other public schools or is it only a policy function? The committee will check with Kirby on their experience.
- Marceya said that it is her understanding that the school board would be able to sell the school without consultation with the community if the public school were closed. The question will be put to Gary Swenson for clarification.
- Use announced versus allowable tuition for budgeting. Jo Anne said that the allowable tuition for the prior year is more accurate because it is based on year end actuals.

Expansion Committee – a meeting was held with the teachers, staff and some community members to determine if it would be possible to incorporate 7th & 8th grades into Peacham Elementary School. The group decided that it would be feasible to do it in the space available. An additional full time teacher would be needed. The personal learning plans implemented this year could provide a base for the program. Marceya has spoken with the principals in Walden and Danville. Danville will provide special classes to Peacham students at \$1,075 per child per class. Jean and Marceya will start compiling a report. They have looked at certification requirements and additional training needed. Marceya would like to have school sharing options with Barnet/Danville so that a child could be placed where they will thrive. Some research is showing that K-8 is a better option for many students as it provides more stability, one less transition, students and their needs are known to the teachers.

Question – at what point would we need to go to a full time principal.

School As Is with Variations – Cathy reported that there had not been much activity over the last month. They want to meet with a school board member to go through the budget line item by line item.

- They are looking at a land trust model to create more affordable housing in Peacham that could provide part of a long term solution to the declining school census. This initiative would have to come through the planning commission. Jo Anne noted that there is a correlation between the number of affordable housing units and school population. Mark said that affordable housing needs to include transportation as there are few jobs or services in the community at present.
- Deborah Vogini is looking at ways to reduce school costs through sharing with others in the supervisory union.
- They are looking at grant options for some programs.
- Coordination of use of grounds and buildings for other town functions, not for income or savings but for better utilization.
- They don't think sharing space with town offices is viable.

Wendy asked if they had looked at ridding teachers and replacing them with lower cost teachers? Dave asked why the town is paying for substitutes as the teachers get paid for so many days, should they pay for their own substitutes? Wendy suggested including the questions in a FAQ at the end of the report. Jo Anne said that early retirement is sometimes promoted as an option. Other suggestions included capping teacher's salaries, long distance learning or teleconferencing.

Data Committee –Wynne said the committee has not met and it has not had any new requests. Wynne will talk to John Bacon about whom Mark should see about finances.

Merger Committee Their meeting with Danville has been postponed to July 12 at 6:30 at the school.

Report Template – Wendy listed the topics included in the choice committee report. She will send her list electronically to Jo Anne which will then be shared via the email list. All data included in the reports need to be sourced. Questions and comments can be included at the end of the report. Julie suggested we create a blended report at the end of the process so that each option can be compared by topic more easily.

It was decided that there would be no meetings in July or August. Draft reports will be due for a September 9 meeting for comments and questions. Final reports will be due for presentation at a full community meeting in October. Ask Winton Goodrich to facilitate the October meeting.

Next meeting: September 9 from 3-5 PM.

Meeting adjourned about 5:00

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Dedam