

Minutes - RSU 13 – Facilities and Transportation Committee
June 4, 2013
The McLain Building

	Committee		Committee		Visitors
P	George Emery, Chair	P	Scott Vaitones	P	Lew Collins
P	Arvilla Collins	E	Scott Hall	P	Tess Kilgour
P	Christine Curtis	E	Todd Johnston		
P	William Pearce				
P	Present	A	Absent	E	Excused

New Business

1. Status of roofing projects

Scott Vaitones reported the roof projects are out to bid with bids being opened June 5th. Our bid ad required anyone interested in bidding to come to each of the sites at a specific time and fourteen bidders showed up for the site walk through.

2. Reports from Community Forums

Tess reported on the Rockland forum: About 20 people present
 Overall the group felt savings from additional consolidating should be divided 60% of savings for education and 40% for tax relief
 Concern of where younger children would go to school
 Public does not generally understand what administration does
 A general feeling will get a new high school with Many Flags so see no need to do anything with Oceanside High School-east
 No concern about merging middle schools
 At each of the forums, the general consensus has wanted to keep the younger kids at smaller community schools
 (see more detail at the end)

3. Continue discussion – Most efficient use of buildings

First piece appears to be combining of the middle schools
 Need to detail out the benefits of merging especially in the allied arts
 Consider grade 9 - 12 high school with an addition that created a “freshman wing”
 Rough estimate would need 190 square foot per student or about 105,000 square feet.
 Oceanside HS-east is currently 86,000 square feet

4. Need to look at data to see how successful the Grades 8–9 Oceanside High School-west is

Option to consider - Middle School to Oceanside HS-w and move the existing 8 – 9 to RDMS

What is the DOE process for an addition?
Develop long term plan and work back to present
What does it cost to keep each school open per pupil?
Cost of staff?
What would it cost to add the programs we want to offer?
If town vote to keep a school open what is the RSU share?
What is the political price for proposing to close the small schools?
An option - K-2 to Owls Head and 3-5 to South
What grade levels for Middle school?
Where will middle school be in September 2014
Decisions that need to be made
The School Board needs to make a decision on where they stand with Gilford Butler and Owls Head before we can make a decision on which school to make the middle school

5. Other business

Energy Audits – Scott Vaitones reported that he sat in on a presentation by three Oceanside High School – east students who have been working with our energy auditor after school since January. It is incredibly impressive to hear what this group has been doing and to see their enthusiasm for the project.

adjourned 7:10 PM

Notes from Rockland Forum 5/30/13

Steve Carroll Rockland recognized our work, it's a money issue.

Ashley Bartke, Staff skeptic of 12-14 year old students in one place. Asks for more time to prove worth. School climate is good.

Gerald Weinand, Rockland and wife teaches in RSU, 3 children in schools. Former 5 did surveys and assessed schools. All schools over 60. It was recommended to do addition at South School for MacDougal and addition at OHCS. RDMS and South ancient. Why are we talking about doing anything with high school when Many Flags will provide new high school. Is there a master plan, plan for 5, 10 years down road.

Rick Bernard, former employee, has one child in district. Fiscally based problems. Waiting for many flags money. Small community schools work best. Connections. Parents/teachers take pride in peninsula schools. Big mistake to consolidate elementary schools. Take slowly.

Steve Carroll No press here what a shame. Too much patching transportation nightmare. No long term plan. Facilities out dated. People have identity with local schools. Discouraged about consolidation thought it was just administrative. Disappointed in loss of RDHS. Fresh look at buildings. Use technology to teach. Biggest ticket items are buildings and payroll.

Jan Erickson (Thomaston) from Jonesport beals moved here to have child walk to school, long term plan. Nervous about patching.

Rick Bernard in term of dollars areas of concerns, transportation –inefficient long bus rides for students 2. Central office too many specialists more than previous districts. Want to add more why. Money best spent on people who spend time with children.

Sonya Sleeper, So Thomaston formerly from Georgia where school lost accreditation. Property values plummeted and school board kept spending money (clayton county Georgia) Need to decided what we

want for core curriculum. Need to lower salary to 60% of current value, get rid of masters teachers and higher BS. Teachers have too much paperwork. Need to focus on basics reading and math. Spending too much money on staff. Close school libraries and partner with town libraries. Think outside the box. Lower standards for substitute teachers. Losing touch with community.

Gerald Weinand Teachers are what we pay for. Critical mass needs to be present to keep small schools open. If mass is gone you may need to consolidate. Close a school is wracking experience. Older levels consolidation will work better.

Cindy McGurl Runs afterschool program at TGS. Disappointed in loss of art teacher. 9th grade a failure

TGS moldy 70's building. Money best spent on keeping teachers. Nothing wrong with OHE cafeteria. She has a 9th grade child. Art and sports are what keep kids motivated. Around the state sports and arts make strong schools. Knows 4 families that have moved to Camden. Thinks it will cost 10million to merge high school. Move a few from South to TGS. Cut administration. Upset that we increased admin by 500k and cut teachers by 500k. Administration doesn't listen. Administration and Board does not listen. We do not make parents feel welcome. Not enough community events in Rockland. Better at St Geo.

Larry Pritchard Rockland feels that a lot of people have a better feeling about busing students around at middle school level. These were people who had doubts.

Shift of Many Flags to One Community. Direction has changed for Many Flags. Central Office is it smaller or is it growing. Public perception.

Tess wants to know how to best communicate with community.

Suggestion ask press for so many inches per week and do informational column. George Terrien. Email We should be take bull by horns...Pen Bay Pilot, Free Press, Blog,

Amanda Veilleux Rockland Kindergarten child.

Amy Libby Rockland Children age 9 and 7 currently attend OHCS. Frightened about potential closure of small schools. Moved children to OHCS because of chaotic environment at SS. OHCS warmer. Had problems with administration and policies. Worried about her children being caught in transition. Many parents are moving or trying to move out of district. How do we keep families here. Loves Rockland came from Camden does not want to go back...does not like constant change. One concern, was at OH meeting, get objective evidence about closing schools. How satisfied are families with their schools, what are the children's well being. Rockland transient population how do we support well being may not be reflected in test scores.

Terrrien, Rockland, 3 decades in education. Need to budget. We need to have faith in our future.

Investing in future is critically important. Believes we are trying to improve. Not enough resources.

Need to find resources. Make education a priority.

Ashley Bartke, teacher OHW, As a person on inside of process. It has been quite a process. Has taught 4 subjects in 6 years. She is a math there are more costs than just money. Every change requires hours of curriculum work. Kids do not get the best of the teacher with so many changes. No consistency in math programs in district. House on market. Parents want predictability.

Quality of education, know who your teachers are. Do parents know lesson plans? Define quality education.

Jeff LaBrozzi, Owls Head Moved to OH for small school. Already spends 45min on bus. Not fair to small kids. Teachers ping ponging. Too many changes in course teaching how does anyone get "good" at this. Worries about losing good feeling. If we shut down schools mass exodus to Camden.

Jan Erickson Thomaston Don't close Lura Libby. Good Communication Likes Lexia. Is comfortable and confident with teachers she can't face change.

Brandy Blood Thomaston from small town. Moved to bigger school and felt "lost" in a bigger community. Chose Thomaston wanted small town feel. Wants children to know their community. Likes to feel connected. Change makes her nervous.

Doug Curtis Rockland. Task force. Refers to task force of RDMS. Thrashed out problems. Feed back important. Business type decisions. Well thought out plan. Why use bond bank? Find cheapest way to get money. Cut administration. Has a wife who is teacher. In fixing building take hard look at money look .

Jennifer Colburn Rockland has 7 yr old. Wishes she had sent her child to OH. Child on second principal. Need to do better communication on smart phone. Appropriate interaction with teacher but could be better. Appreciates larger school opportunities at HS level. Many values taught at home.

Gerald. 5 yr plan gives opportunity to prepare.

Question: What was wrong with each town having their own schools? Not what their impression of consolidation. Let's go back to having our old schools. Dismantle RSU.

Tess asked for numbers attending.

Rockland 9

Thomaston 5

Owls Head 1

So Thom 2

St Geo 2 (George Emery one of these individuals)

Cushing 1

Number attending more than one meeting 5

Suggested busing students from crowded to less crowded

Jan New start of school time and busing. Problem for working schedule.

Ended 0820pm

Total in attendance was 21 (two late comers)

Respectfully submitted by Tess Kilgour