

School Board Facilities Committee meeting minutes from September 19, 2013:

Board members present: Avilla Collins, Esther Kilgour, Sherm Hoyt, George Emery, Don Robishaw, Carol Bachofner, Sally Carlton, Bill Pearce, Christine Curtis and Loren Andrews. Absent: Darryl Sanborn and Nancy Jeffers

Public participation:

Don Choquette - Facilities study long needed and it is important to determine the excess capacity and total capacity for each building

If expansion needed will need detailed engineering studies

Wants to see details of proposals on paper

Jennifer Garrett - The summer math program in St. George was a great success and thanked Scott Vaitones, Todd Johnston and Paula Moody for all the efforts with providing transportation.

She has been told that during rainy days at Oceanside High School -east and west the cafeterias overflow into halls and students are sitting on the floors.

Larry Schooley responded that Oceanside High School – west is tight with 2 lunch periods but he has never seen kids sitting on floor

Tom Forti responded that Oceanside High School – east also tight with 2 lunches and it is a small room. There have been 4 tables added this fall and moved salad bar and some tables in hallways.

Emily Davis Guidance at Oceanside High School - west- She supported merger but did not support two campuses one high school, however, she sees lots of good going on in the 8th grade

Resistant to going backwards to a 9 / 12

Strategic plan covers facilities and says to be well informed before making decisions

Take it slow

Listen to all the voices

5. Discussion – Facilities

Discussed the Superintendent's handout:

Need to know what real capacity of each building

Would need a Board vote on where the students from Gilford Butler would be housed before proceeding with closing Gilford Butler.

Need to determine where the middle school would be

If we look at moving the middle twice we would get an immediate savings

The October 19th workshop with the School Board and Administrators is to develop a plan and then take that out to the public for comments

Need to look at the distance a child goes to school and community distribution of where the students are in relationship to schools

The Superintendent would like to do middle school next year to capitalize on savings

For the next meeting – How many classrooms are there in each building based on 18 students per room +/-.

What are the plusses of combining Gilford Butler and Owls Head Central Schools?
And what would be needed to make this happen?

It is being said that closing schools will save money but if the board needs to put money into other areas there is no savings to the taxpayer

Loren Andrews - Feel should go into Oct. 19th with a clean plate and discuss all possibilities

Evidence is showing success at 8th & 9th school

Are we improving the schools?

Tess Kilgour - Noted that it was a formal School Board vote of what the plan would be.

George Emery - Paint the picture of what will improve education in the district

What does the Board want from the Principals?

Sherm Hoyt - agrees with Loren's position and feels have been rushed
Need to create plan. We need a written process for developing the plan

Christine Curtis - Need facts and figures of the various schools

Optimal class size, the number of class rooms at OHS-e, OHS-w, TGS, RDMS, OHCS, GBS, including special education needs

Staffing needs from principal down

Sally Carleton - this is only the 3rd year of the 8 / 9 school not enough data yet to make good decisions

Bill Pearce - he agrees with Loren, George, Sherm moving way to fast except the middle school can be fast tracked

Tess Kilgour asked principals what Board should be asking:

Larry Schooley -

- Staff participation and their input on the concept of the 8/9 school
- Consider moving the 8 /9 to RDMS to put it closer to OHS-e.
- Not sure staff agree with 6,7,8 configuration
- Performance data from different schools
- Any data on outcome of 9th to 10th?

Loren Andrews - there has not been a collaborative process it needs to slow down and include staff and community

Carol Bachofner - agrees with Loren. As an example not having teachers on curriculum committee needs to include faculty, administration, community, all the stakeholders

Mary Alice McLean

- Parents want to be heard

Susan Stilwell

- Would the survey George Emery developed from Oceanside High School – west be appropriate to the other schools?
- What do we gain academically by the consolidation and what do we lose?

Tom Forti

- Why are we considering going back to a 9 / 12 school?
- There is no way Oceanside High School – east would serve even 600 students at this time

- When the building opened in 1962 there was no technology (2 classrooms now), no special education (5 classrooms now), offices, a conference room / book room has been added to the library from a classroom

Kathy Hollicker

- When discussing combining the middle schools last year only looked at Rockland District Middle to Thomaston Grammar
- What do you see as appropriate class size
- What programs do you want
- How many behavioral rooms
- Separate music
- Art
- Staff have some great ideas
- After school program and its space

6. Discussion of any distribution of any savings:

Arvilla Collins - do not feel as much saving as we think and do not feel budget is as big a burden as we hear we need to reinvest in education

Loren Andrews - it is too premature to discuss

Sherm Hoyt - ideal would be to improve education and help taxpayers if process is done correctly will improve relationship with communities

George Emery - believe will be savings with middle school merger and need to look at why Rockland is so impacted in the funding formula.

Don Robishaw - Need to reinvest in buildings and some back into tax relief

Carol Bachofner - She is certain there will be savings, investing in students, and improved schools will lead to improved communities

Bill Pearce - bigger bang from long term energy management improvements need to control cost

Sally Carleton - split savings

Christine Curtis - share savings

Tess Kilgour - 100% all back into education from any building closings

George Emery - feels each local community should have its own lower grades school

Tess Kilgour - the next community meetings will be more regional

George Emery - do not feel that we get a comprehensive view with just one meeting

The Board entered an executive session from 7:05 PM to 7:20 PM

Motion to adjourn by Arvilla Collins and seconded by Bill Pearce all voting in favor.

Adjourned to tour 7:01

A tour of Oceanside High School - east followed.