

## PHS Committee Meeting of 8/25/08

**Attendees:** Dr. Bass, Kevin Steele, Brian Mahoney, Kathleen Sargent, Brian Carton, Gary Robidoux, Julie Bezoet deBie, Dr. Mohr, Christine Marion, and Brenda Hobbs. Sean Minuti arrived late.

Absent: Daryle Hillsgrove

Brian Cartin opened the meeting for Sean Minuti. The agenda items were:

- a) Review options presented to the Pelham School Board. Some members had questions as to what the options were and what plans were presented to the town.
- b) Discussion on the public survey the group would like to conduct. Brian stated that one of the objectives of the survey is to find out why the High School failed and what the townspeople want for a new school.

### Discussion

1. We looked at some of the history of the schools. Co-op discussion was the first school discussion to surface in the town as far as expanding our schools. Julie said that the Co-op was a "dead" issue. We have no more towns that we could co-op with. She feels that we need to discuss the failing of all of the other options. Dr. Bass said the townspeople need "clear and concise" recommendations from this committee. PES took several years to get passed. It passed the year that the town's taxes went down, so it wasn't going to hurt the people as much.
2. Brian M. feels that our needs have changed now because of the addition of Pre-school, Kindergarten, and possibly the splitting of the SAU.
3. Christine asked about the "tuition" discussion that we had last week. Is it an option for our HS students? Dr. Bass spoke to the finances and the drawbacks to do this. Our options are, Salem, Hudson, or Windham (These are the towns that we have agreements with already.) The placing of students in these schools would only be a "fix" for 3-5 years. Discussion about how the students would be chosen, the cost per student, transportation, SPED costs, and the impact on the rest of the students. (Hudson would cost \$8,500 per student, Salem \$10,000- \$10,500, Windham \$10,500-\$11,000) If the number of students leaving could be split, than how does the PES and PMS align their curriculum for three different high schools? Many thought that this would not solve problems but create more. Christine felt that it is still important to let the people know all of the options. Gary wants all feasible options taken back to the town.
4. Discussion about additional trailers and would be less than tuition to other schools. Dr. Mohr feels that the trailers are well received by the students and the staff. There are no stigmas associated with having classes in them. There is a cost recovery if

we bring kindergarten in and get more trailers. (\$.75 on a \$1 and it doesn't matter what grade goes into the trailers.)

5. Brian M. gave additional info on the presentations that were given to the town by Marinace. He feels that we need to present something as an alternative option that would be much less money. Discussion about everything that comes before the town is very expensive, and the people want less "frills" and buildings that are more economical. The number of students that started in the schools is lower than the projected numbers. Dr. Bass feels it might change in the next few weeks, but still will be lower. He spoke about moving grades around in the buildings that we have, or in new buildings. We reviewed each school and the capabilities each building has and the space options. Code changes would be required if we modified a building was modified. The group discussed some of the changes that would be required.
6. District build out options were discussed, and the timeline for the build out. Dr. Bass feels that we should use a plan for 3,000 students. (K-12 grades) This figure should be for 10-15 years from now. We will use the figures from the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. (We voted on this, and it passed and everyone was in agreement) Kevin reviewed the build out sheet that we had all received. We voted to eliminate option #4. Option 6 was discussed further. We decided to keep #6 on as an option. Dr. Bass said that an analysis of each building is important in our discussions. Julie likes to get the background of each of the buildings so that she can visualize each plan. Brian M. and Kevin know a lot more about these schools than the rest of the committee.
7. PMS: 3 grades now. PMS construction is restrained on three sides. Building up was discussed, but not favored. Building could be done on front or back (will interfere with playground, parking and septic) could reduce 1 grade to alleviate the crowding. Ideally the school could hold 500 students in two grades. The roof is two years old. Building needs HVAC updates, sprinklers, and other issues if we make major improvements. We would like to see a maintenance document to see what has been done to this building in the last few years. (Dr. Bass will ask about getting one.) Marinace spoke about the addition on PMS on p.6 -#2 (Facility Planning Option).
8. PES: Current students-946 maximum population is 1,000. (cared for 1,200) Nothing needs to be done at this point other than regular maintenance Issues. Building is 6 years old and has had a few concerns with the way it was built. Windows might be a concern in the near future. (They were downgraded because of over budgeting.) Important to realize the ages of the students in the building, now R-5, especially if you add Kindergarten and Pre-K. (maybe in 2009) Windham can no longer support our Pre-K due to space. If Pre-K is added to this building you will need a fenced- in playground and at least four rooms with special bathrooms, and related services for these children. Some concerns about lunch times with so many children.

9. PHS: Marinace quoted 3-5 million to fix the inside of the building. Enrollment of 691 with max of 563. (cored for 600) Julie said this school needs to be doubled for enrollment max. Dr. Mohr will make a plan that will show what the HS is missing, as far as academics that cannot be offered because of space issues. Dr. Bass will get the same from PMS. Gary spoke again about a "campus" style building that could be built, on the grounds, housing only classrooms that the students could be moved into while renovations could be done to the PHS. (He was involved with another town that did this and it worked out well.)
10. Brian M. spoke about the land issues around PHS. Kathleen Sargent will look up the study that was done on the landowners around the PHS. Brian C. spoke about our options for our next meeting. We need to discuss the town's options and the requirements versus the town's desires. We need to figure out a "clear problem" statement that was an issue in the past, and how we can fix this.
11. Brian C. wants more structure to our meetings. Next meeting will be 9/9/08 @ 7:00 pm,