

Kittery School Committee Meeting
01 April 2008 - Shapleigh Middle School - 6:30 p.m.
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pelletier at 6:30 p.m. Supt. Littlefield, Glennis Wright, Kim Bedard, David Batchelder, Patti Ayer, Bill Furbush, and Ken Lemont were present. Also present were school administrators, Mac Collins, Chief Architect, and Mike Johanning, Architect of WRBC, Town Council members, members of the public and press were also present. Student Board Member, Jessica Bedard, was excused absent.

C. Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

D. Minutes:

The Minutes of February 27, 2008 were approved as presented.

The Minutes of March 26, were approved as presented.

E. Student Advisory Member Report: (written report submitted)

At Mitchell Primary School, the Chewonki Whale group will build a whale on April 3. On the same day the 1st grade will be visited by the Mount Washington Observatory Outreach program. The 1st grade will have a poetry slam on April 30 and May 1. Odyssey of the Mind teams from Mitchell and Frisbee will be going to Augusta on Saturday, April 5. Frisbee Elementary School had Arts Week last week. On Thursday, April 3, there will be an ice cream social in the cafeteria. Parent/teacher conferences will be on April 9-10. The quarter ends on April 4, 2008. Traip held the Rock Runway Fashion Show on Saturday, March 29 for Project Graduation. Spring sports are going well. Teachers from Traip & Shapleigh Middle School met last week to continue work on curriculum coordination. Ms Garnis and Mr. Roberge will be attending the Maine Principal's Association Luncheon in Bangor on Saturday, April 5.

II. PUBLIC FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AND INPUT ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Supt. Littlefield welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening. He introduced the representatives for WRBC. The purpose of this meeting is for WRBC to describe their findings, review and explain primary options for reconfiguration of the schools. Also at the end of the presentation, public input, questions, concerns, or suggestions are welcomed.

Chair Pelletier welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He noted that the public's feedback is vital to this project and welcomed anyone to address their concerns or questions after the presentation. Our purpose is to do this right, not do it quickly. That is why your feedback is so important. Our decision will be based on what is the best scenario for our student's education.

Mac Collins, WBRC Chief Architect, gave a slide presentation of their findings.. Mike Johanning presented several options for reconfiguring the district.

Options were:

1. Close most of Frisbee School, keeping only the annex open for Kindergarten, Head Start, adult education programs, and relocate Central Office to there. Grade 3 would go to Mitchell, Grade 4 would go to Shapleigh and Grade 8 would go to Traip.
2. Close Frisbee and do extensive work at the remaining 3 schools. Grades K-3 at Mitchell, Grades 4-7 at Shapleigh, and Grades 8-12 at Traip.
3. Build additions at Mitchell and Traip and all grades would be the same as above (option 2).
4. Close Traip and do major renovations and additions at Frisbee. This would be the new high school. Mitchell would stay as it is now, Grades 3-6 at Shapleigh and Grades 7-12 at Frisbee.
5. The two school scenario has renovations and additions both to Shapleigh and Frisbee. Grades K-6 at Shapleigh and Grades 7-12 at Frisbee.

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Options 4 and 5 are the most expensive options. All the above options would involve bonding which would need both the approval of Town Council and the voters.

Following the presentation, Jenifer Van Deusen welcomed the public's input and opened the podium for questions, comments, and concerns.

Charles Case addressed the Board and requested cost information for the change. He questioned if costs for bus transportation would change with any of these changes.

Diane Fallon asked if all four buildings were analyzed. She also asked what the costs would be if we kept everything the same and did the work needed to Frisbee.

Don Moore questioned if the costs they were given would still be about the same at the conclusion of the project.

Donald Gagnon addressed the Board and expressed concern about what education the students would receive if we were to consolidate to 2 or 3 schools. He also asked if the reconfiguration would be put before the voters.

Marcus Kaiser questioned why this was being proposed and what has transpired to bring about a feasibility study.

Matt Ackerman questioned what would happen with the education process and our students during the work process.

Eleanor Kreuger questioned the timeline for construction.

Liz Hoyt questioned if we were to keep Frisbee as is, would we save on our budget where we are trying to keep budget costs down. It was noted that the roof is in need of immediate repair as well as many elements of the building, which are costly. She questioned if these costs would shift to other town departments. It was noted that a bond would be used to fund these costs.

Sarah Brown asked if, while determining these options, did the architects look into any solar or wind power. She questioned who has the final decision and also asked how decisions will be made. She also questioned if any changes would be made with our staff noting that she was not in support of this if it would affect staff. She also noted that Town Council needs to listen more to the School Committee and look elsewhere for budget cuts. Year after year it seems it always is the School Dept. that seems to keep cutting back. Our students suffer when this keeps happening.

Tess Schneier noted that she is excited with the 3 ½ school option. Frisbee is like a landmark in this town. She also noted that at the present time we do not know fully what is happening with the school consolidation process and this would seem to be the most feasible. She thanked the Board for all their hard work. When they make their decisions, she knows they will keep the student's education their first priority.

Kathleen Regan addressed the Board and questioned why not put Grade 4 at Mitchell and leave Grade 8 at Shapleigh.

Mark McNabb questioned the land components of the buildings. He questioned if the Board had considered tuitioning students out to other towns.

David Foster asked the Board to review for the public what the procedure is should we opt to close a school.

Sam Smith commented that our school system is an asset to our town. She commended the Board for putting our students and their education first in all their decision making.

Wanda Avery commented that when the reconfiguration is determined, she would like the Board to consider leaving the 8th grade at Shapleigh and not move them to Traip. At that age, transition is hard enough. She would like to see Shapleigh be Grades 5-8.

Linda Lorrey questioned what, if any, grades require a playground. She also questioned what would happen to the rest of Frisbee should the school dept. only use the annex. Would the rest be the town's responsibility? A possible Rec. Dept or Senior Center?

Jeff Nuracki questioned if we had considered any land that might be available to purchase

possibly for additions or parking.

Tess Schneier questioned why the architects labeled the shipyard as a “constraint” to our schools.

Sarah Brown if the Board chose to close Frisbee entirely, how soon would this happen?

Lee Perkins-Silsby commented that by keeping the public informed of what is happening makes it more helpful to understand the process. She thanked the Board for standing their ground to Town Council with the budget process. She noted that we should not close Frisbee, it is the only school we have with adequate land. She suggested that we keep the public informed with more emails. She also commented that she did not agree with moving Grade 3 in option 4 to Shapleigh or Grade 8 to Traip.

Chair Pelletier thanked everyone for the comments and questions. He noted that Town Council has a difficult job to do. We have a job to do as well. He also noted that WBRC’s final report to the Board will be on April 15, 2008. This meeting will also be held at the Shapleigh cafeteria.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:
Correspondence was included in the FYI packet.

V. STAFF REPORTS: None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Action to discuss the FY09 Budget.

A workshop with the Board and Town Council will be held on Monday, April 7, 2008. Included in the FYI packet is a copy of material that Jon Carter has prepared for the workshop. This includes the Agenda and backup material that lays out the cuts on both the municipal and school side.

B. Action on final approval for an overnight trip to Spain (April 13-24, 2008) Traip Spanish Club.
It was MOVED by Kim Bedard, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 7-0-0 in favor to grant final approval for an overnight trip to Spain (April 13-24, 2008) Traip Spanish Club.

C. Action from a teacher to take a year leave of absence without pay for the 2008-2009 school year.

for
It was MOVED by Kim Bedard, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 7-0-0 in favor to approve a year leave of absence without pay for the 2008-2009 school year
Ann Catell, Mitchell School teacher.

- D. Action to approve the 2008-2009 Traip Academy Program of Studies.
It was MOVED by Kim Bedard, SECONDED by Patti Ayer and VOTED 7-0-0 in favor to approve the 2008-2009 Traip Academy Program of Studies.
- E. Action to amend policy BEA - Regular School Committee Meetings.
It was MOVED by Chair Pelletier, SECONDED by Kim Bedard and VOTED 7-0-0 in favor to amend policy BEA - Regular School Committee Meetings.
- F. Action on first reading of the following policies:
 - 1. ADA A - School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior.
 - 2. IHBAA - Referral/Pre-Referral of Students with Disabilities.
 - 3. IHBAG - Programming in the Least Restrictive Environment.
It was MOVED by Chair Pelletier, SECONDED by Kim Bedard and VOTED 7-0-0 in favor to approve first reading of policies ADA A - School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior, IHBAA - Referral/Pre-Referral of Students with Disabilities, and IHBAGG - Programming in the Least Restrictive Environment.
- G. Action on second reading of the following policies:
 - 1. IKF - Graduation Requirements
 - 2. IMBB - Exemption from Required Instruction
It was MOVED by Chair Pelletier, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 7-0-0 in favor to approve second reading of policies IKF - Graduation Requirements and IMBB - Exemption from Required Instruction.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- A. Resignation/Retirement:
 - 1. Amanda Whitney, Food Service
 - 2. Alethea Cariddi, Health Coordinator
 - 3. Jenifer Van Deusen, Curriculum Coordinator
It was MOVED by Chair Pelletier, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 7-0-0 in favor to acknowledge with great appreciation for all their contributions to the Kittery school system and best of luck in their future, the resignations of Amanda Whitney, Food Service, Alethea Cariddi, Health Coordinator, and Jenifer Van Deusen, Curriculum Coordinator .
- B. Supt. Littlefield reported that included in the FYI packet is the report from Northeast Test Consultants on the air quality testing at Traip Academy. Overall, the results were

very positive.

Co- C. Supt. Littlefield reported that the FYI packets includes the school handbooks and the Curricular Handbook for the Board to review. Please email Supt. Littlefield any corrections, changes, or questions. Approval of these handbooks will be at the next meeting.

D. The cottage meetings are as follows:
Shapleigh Middle School - Tuesday, April 1 @ 2:00 p.m.
Mitchell Primary School - Wednesday, April 2 @ 7:45 a.m.
Frisbee Elementary School - Wednesday, April 9 @ 7:15 a.m.
Traip Academy - Wednesday, April 9 @ 2:15 p.m.

IX. COMMITTEES & REPORTS:

A. Design Team: The Design Team is scheduled to meet on April 9, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

B. Town Council Information Report: None.

C. Health Coordinating Team: The Health Coordinating Team is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, April 2, 2008.

D. Policy Committee: The Policy Committee met and discussed policies. The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 8.

E. MSBA Executive Committee: The MSBA Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on April 12, 2008.

F. Advisory Committee for Information Literacy: The Advisory Committee for Information Literacy is scheduled to meet on May 12, 2008.

G. Legislative Committee: The Legislative Committee has not met.

H. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met today, April 1, 2008.

I. Energy Committee: The Energy Committee held their first meeting. They discussed goals for the committee and plan to gather data on the district's energy consumption. At present the committee consists of 30 members. The Energy Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 3, 2008.

X. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Glennis Wright commented that she will be attending the cottage meetings.

have and we need to have a Board Representative serve on this committee. . She expressed concern that some students may drop out of school early and enter the Adult Education program so they would be able to graduate earlier. The consensus of the Board was to have Supt. Littlefield discuss this concern with Pauli Rines, Adult Education Coordinator.

Chair Pelletier commented that he thought the public forum tonight went very well. He appreciated the attendance of parents and Kittery residents and thanked them for expressing their views, any concerns, as well as questions, they had regarding the Feasibility Study. He thanked the Board for all their hard work and hours regarding our FY09 budget. Even when the times have gotten tough, the Board has performed in exemplary fashion, worked as a team, and worked hard to ensure that education comes first for the best interest of our students. We realize that Town Council has a job to do and thoroughly respect their position, but we have a job to do as well.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XII. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

It was MOVED Glennis Wright, SECONDED by Kim Bedard and VOTED 7-0-0 on a VOICE VOTE to adjourn at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by _____ Date: April 1, 2008
Janis Marshall-Colby, Recorder

_____ Date: April 1, 2008
Larry Littlefield, Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: April 15, 2008