

Kittery School Committee Meeting
08 July 2008 - Town Hall Chambers - 6:30 p.m.
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

A & B. The meeting was called to order by Chair Pelletier at 6:30 p.m. Supt. Littlefield, Glennis Wright, Kim Bedard, Patti Ayer, David Batchelder, Ken Lemont, and Bill Furbush were present. Also present were administrators, Town Council Members, Glenn Shwaery and Judy Spiller, members of the public and press. .

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rep. Walter Wheeler, 1st District Representative, reported on the meeting with Governor Baldacci and the Commissioner of Education regarding penalties that may be imposed on Kittery regarding school consolidation. Governor Baldacci acknowledged that Kittery has made every possible effort to meet the requirements and it is of no fault of our own that we were not able to do so. He was impressed with the meeting and feels encouraged they saw our position. The Governor said that Kittery will not be penalized.

Glenn Shwaery addressed the Board and questioned if the York School district has received any penalty for not complying with school consolidation. He also questioned what the state penalty is for not complying with school consolidation. Glenn was informed that a district could lose ½ of their state subsidy.

Lee Perkins-Silsby addressed the Board and commented that we need to look at the big picture before we make a final decision on school re-configuration. Frisbee has a lot of land for possible expansion. She feels that the Board should make the decision and then present it to Town Council and see what they would like to have happen next.

Liz Hoyt addressed the Board and expressed her concerns with the configuration of grade levels in each school should the decision be made to proceed with the 3 school option. She feels that grades K-3 and 4-8 are not the ideal option. She would like to see the grade levels be grades K- 4 and 5-8.

Chair Pelletier thanked everyone for their comments.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discuss and take action on the Kittery School Department Feasibility Study. Chair Pelletier reviewed the options that were presented by WRBC on the Feasibility study. A lot of work has gone into the process and we have looked deeply into every option that came before us. He feels the 3 school option is the option that fits our district the best for our students.

Kim Bedard commented that she feels we have not publicized the Feasibility study results enough to get the word out to the community. Chair Pelletier noted that he feels it has been an open process and we have heard comments from concerned parents, school staff and administrators during our meetings.

David Batchelder commented that should we decide to go with the 3 school scenario, we need to be aware of land issues for possible future additions to Shapleigh and Mitchell. We need to take into consideration the possibility that the student enrollment could increase in the future. Should the school size grow and the Town controls Frisbee, where would we go?

It was MOVED by Chair Pelletier, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 4-3 (Kim Bedard, David Batchelder, Bill Furbush) to approve the 3 school option - Mitchell grades K-3, Shapleigh Middle School grades 4-8, Traip Academy grades 9-12, close Frisbee and forward our decision to Town Council for discussion, and begin to plan for a bond for construction.

AMENDMENT TO MAIN MOTION made by Chair Pelletier and SECONDED by Glennis Wright to also include the closure of Frisbee Elementary School.
MOTION PASSED 4-3 (Kim Bedard, David Batchelder, Bill Furbush)

Chair Pelletier requested that the Superintendent start the process with the state to close a school in accordance with statute.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

It was MOVED by Glennis Wright, SECONDED by Chair Pelletier and VOTED 7-0-0 on a VOICE VOTE to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by _____ Date: July 8, 2008
Janis Marshall-Colby, Recorder