

Town of Springfield, NH

Springfield Schools Committee Meeting

June 8, 2011

7:00pm

Springfield Town Offices

1. Attendees: Emily Cleaveland, Pam Laurie, Jeff Haley, Christine Haley, Janet Booker
 1. Absent: Jen Roberts, Amanda Peterson, Ashley Gelina & Justin Hastings

2. Administrative Agenda
 - a. Welcome prospective new members
 - i. Several nominations for Todd Fleury. Accepted by committee.
 - ii. 7 additional members were contacted & emailed. None are in attendance.

 - b. Approve minutes from 5/11/11
 - i. Motion to approve – Jeff Haley, seconded Janet Booker, in favor – all

3. New Business
 - a. **Summary of School Board meetings** (Janet Booker)
 - i. May 19th.
 1. Felt it was important to put summary of info regarding Springfield in writing.
 - a.see attached summary
 - ii. June 2nd.
 1. More info included other than specific to Springfield
 - a. See attached summary
 2. Christine - Is class size union determined?
 - a. Pam – No, it's a board & administration collaborative decision
 3. Perhaps utilize a paraprofessional in larger classes.
 - a. Discussion about personal circumstances.
 - i. It has to be a balance.
 - b. Jeff – What studies are there w/ recommended #s (state or nationally)?
 - iii. Todd Fleury attended the meetings as well.
 1. Next meeting there will be discussion regarding fees for activities (field trips, sports, etc...) for parents as well as district to incur – June 23rd. Tentative rollover into June 30th.
 - a. Pam – noticeable increase (fees) beyond 6th grade.
 - i. Should board be paying for trips if it's educationally related?
 - b. Jeff – Is there a fee for sports?
 - i. No (Pam) All budgeted.

- ii. Some districts charge to play sports
 - iii. Jeff – was a fee when he was in HS
 - c. Pam – some schools can fundraise better than others, becomes an equity issue
 - d. Emily – Dan Wolff encouraged people to also attend committee meetings in addition to Board meetings (invitation)
 - e. Emily complimented the 8th grade on their presentations regarding their trip to D.C.
 - iv. Emily – the 6-2 vote was different than the previous 5-3 vote in regards to keeping Springfield K.
 - 1. Gary Markoff (New London) changed his vote because he thought 6 in K was small and 5 students would not be beneficial to students.
 - a. Leigh C. – to Emily – The Selectmen need to figure space for K space.
 - i. Asks committee to come up with future potential uses.
- b. **Future of Springfield K.**
- i. Jeff - board looking for at least 15 kids before reusing Springfield K.
 - ii. Leigh – in the past, if more than 12 kids enrolled, it broke into 2 sessions.
 - iii. Todd – space consideration was a high priority.
 - iv. Pam – let the Selectmen decide. We don't know what will happen in regards to #'s our potential usage needs.
 - 1. Leigh – Selectmen need input from Schools Committee
 - a. Cynthia Anderson will be putting together a Space & Needs committee.
 - b. Suggests someone from the schools committee sit in on that committee.
 - i. Janet Booker volunteered
 - c. Jeff will look @ population trends. Employers in Upper valley aren't really hiring much. Put together an enrollment probability # for next few years using data.
 - v. Emily – Are we (Springfield residents) accepting of the move to NL now, as the dust settles? Are we ready for this change, or do we feel so strongly to get it (Springfield K) back the minute available?
 - 1. Pam – as kids and parents experience this change, we'll have to see.
 - 2. Janet – everyone went with the flow & we did everything we could do. We need to just move on.
 - 3. Todd – his observation.... Honestly doesn't really see it coming back to Springfield. It's moving ahead.
 - 4. Leigh – input to Selectmen & Space/Needs committee is very important.
 - vi. Emily interpreted that the group present, didn't feel strongly that we WANTED it back.
- c. **Bussing & Transportation**
- i. Neither Jen Roberts nor David Landers were in attendance (assigned to this topic).
 - ii. Emily – Dan Wolff requested that if there are any transportation issues for Springfield students, he'd be willing to look into grants or funding alternatives for children to get to New London.
 - 1. Steve Lynch – both he & his wife are faced with this problem. He would like transportation for his incoming K child to New London.

- a. Pam – Doesn't feel it's an inconvenience offer, but more of financial concern.
 - b. Jeff – can we put K on the regular busses?
 - i. Pam - Must be district wide. Budget issue.
 - c. Emily – recommended “Kids on the Go” shuttle service
 - <http://www.kidsonthegoshuttle.com>
 - 603-856-6876
 - d. Janet – becomes insurance issues & liabilities
- iii. David Landers is now the parent rep. for the Transportation Committee

d. **Cost Comparison & Budget.**

- i. Jeff – presented several info pages/packets from Dept. of Ed web site.
 - 1. Suggested that as a committee, information presented should start broad (fact finding) & then narrowed down.
 - 2. Looked back to 2000 until now, the state (as well as Kearsarge) rate has doubled.
 - a. Not specific to just Kearsarge.
 - b. Feels like there's a population feeling this is unique to just us.
 - 3. Summary of Revenue (tax rate)
 - 4. Valuations of property taxes.
 - a. Lumped by district, then by town
 - b. Jeff explained how valuation works to Emily (and the committee)
 - 5. Cost per. Pupil by District
 - a. Pointed out that Kearsarge follows closely in-line with state averages.
 - b. Leigh – asked Jeff to get hold of last year's district report.
 - i. Look @ # of students by town.
 - 1. Specifics regarding this, were discussed in relation to data found in the report.
 - a. Springfield has 223 in Kearsarge
 - c. New London carries a high valuation rate.
 - i. Springfield valuation includes Durgin & Crowell.
- ii. Emily looked through minutes to find budget related questions.
 - 1. Cost of student in NL v.s. Springfield
 - a. Jeff - There is NO separation per town.
 - b. Leigh commented towards public comments.
 - i. This kind of talk is detrimental.
 - 2. Jeff wants to put together an informative fact sheet in easy to understand terminology
 - 3. Pam encouraged to stop thinking about the “we” (individual towns), but instead think as “us” (regional district).
 - 4. Leigh stated that Kearsarge competes with Hanover.
 - 5. Janet – What do we get in return for our \$ spent on education in Kearsarge?
 - a. Jeff will include this in his next report.
 - 6. Emily – things to put on fact sheet.
 - a. Transportation costs?
 - b. Enrollment is going down, but costs are going up. Why?

