

**Town of Springfield NH  
Notice of**

**Springfield Schools Committee Meeting**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
7:00pm  
Springfield Town Hall**

*public invited and encouraged to attend*

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

**Administrative Agenda:**

7:03pm

Bring meeting to order, introduce the committee, and meeting guidelines.

- Emily C. introduced the committee members, thanked town for investment & passion for kids education. Nice thing! Want to hear from town, big reason we're here.
- Distributed sign-in sheet & info check off list to all Springfield residents in attendance
- 41 people signed in, however there were approx. 10 others in attendance who did not sign the sheet
- Encouraged people to look at info sheet and agenda distributed at the door. It may clear up confusion. Will circulate minutes when approved.

**Welcome School Board Rep., Selectboard Reps, MBC Rep, PAC Reps.**

7:06pm

- Emily introduced Leigh Callaway & John Chiaralla (Selectmen), Linda Cunningham & Greg Austin (PAC Reps. for NL ELEM)
  - Linda Cunningham explained what PAC is & does. Directed people to view district website for more info. Welcomed input from anybody.

**Recognition of outgoing members, new members:**

- No outgoing members
- New members – Christine Haley & Jeff Haley

7:09pm

**Approve minutes from 9/21/11**

7:10pm

Motion Emily C., 2<sup>nd</sup> Pam L. – all in favor (All)

**Elect new secretary (if necessary)**

7:11pm

Christine Haley is nominated by Emily C.

Motion Janet Booker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeff H. - all in favor (all)

**New Business**

- Summarize Springfield K – rational (Mr. Wolf), only 6 students registered, decision by budget, benefits cited were peer involvement, more services, safety, etc...
  - Great showing of K by the town, 7 pgs. of discussion. Final motion by Mr. Wolf – carried 5 to 3.
  - Many people felt they weren't heard @ original meeting. Let people tonight speak about their thoughts & where they want things to go (Emily C. asked attendees to refer to info sheets).
  - Emily C. provided ground rules for the forum:
    - Passion, enthusiasm, respect of members of committee & fellow residents. We want to hear from everyone who has thoughts. Clearly state name. Mind time. Love to hear personal stories. No hearsay.
    - If someone would like to say more – contact committee via email or letter. Want to listen to thoughts & concerns over next few months. This is NOT the final note.
- Emily presented emails from concerned people not able to attend meeting.
  - One person wrote that they feel strongly we should stay in district “going to Leb.+ ½ bus ride = stupid”. He didn't approve of Newport.
  - Anonymous Woman – her child recently attended Springfield K – teachers were very good – child has issues w/ learning & reading disabilities – overwhelmed – ½ day k is not enough – NL gets more attention from spec. services – Springfield children would benefit more in NL Elem. vs other districts. Approves KRES & it's well respected in state.

- Springfield Select Board approved to take the cost of building off the table. Will approach School board with the new info.
- Denise Mason – Springfield students should be bussed 1 way (a.m. to school & p.m. to home).
  - Linda Cunningham – issue w/ pick up for K – parents were concerned about K being on busses w/ HS students (p.m. situation).
- Jerry Cooper - Did the school board ever present an option of what other programs could be cut to keep SPFLD-K. – multi community district -
  - Pam Laurie reminded about min. @ meeting.
    1. Reading programs, classes @ HS were suggested
    2. Just under \$400,000 that had to be cut
      1. Springfield was portion of that.
  - Emily suggested the Springfield Schools Committee looking into this
  - Leigh Callaway - MBC does not have line item authority – didn't recommend cut of Springfield
- Barbara Cooper – What was the criteria used? How does that impact the savings?
  - Pam L. – the rent is \$10,000
  - Emily C. – salary of aide @ satellite location, other cost of Principal & nurse @ school (travel time)
- Doris Sayer – Are any of the other KRES towns maintaining a K in their town?
  - Jen R. – K classes in all other towns are attached to the Elem. School.
  - If that's the case – K's are mixed w/ kids @ other HS kids.
- Bill Waddell – why do we need KRSD to have K? Is it possible for Springfield to have their own K?
  - John Chiarella – We need to apply for a Charter school (different offering, curriculum, etc...) with the state. Springfield K was associated with Grantham. KRSD took it over because all the other other grades went to NL. If the school board gave document to absolve, then the state may

allow us to start our own. Once an authority is given up, you can't assume it back – it must be given back.

- Janet B. – Grantham wanted a K. Town voted to go in with Grantham. Janet was 1<sup>st</sup> teacher in Springfield. Grantham built a new school & had room – Springfield was dropped. When state voted for mandatory K, NL took over Springfield.
- Kevin Lee – other schools w/ K have separate entrances & K kids don't mix w/ other kids.
- Emily C. – Committee present to the board that they leave the K open for next year. With the new info of the “no charge for building”:
  - Asked for show of hands – large majority (approx 22) in favor. Only a few objected (7).
- Kevin Lee – Has there been any movement to seek out more students in Springfield? If there are ways to find more students of K age - excellent experimental choice for a full day (KRSD) – if possibility maybe more students would enroll.
- David Landers – now that K in @ NL, how many students have been pulled out of NL K? What is the advantage of a primary year. This decision has affected several children.
- Natalia Whiting – no way shape or form will her child be negatively affected. There were not accurate #. Several families delay registering for K.
- John C. – if 6 kids are enrolled – numbers are not necessary
- Kevin L. - it was a School Board determined #. If 6 kids are enrolled in a HS class, it's terminated.
  - Explained policies are on the web page.

### **Issues with the town and the School Board**

7:37pm

- George McCusker – feels overwhelming discussion & evidence was presented. Very little to do with ultimate decision – it's an Admin. decision. Didn't get in to cost per. student. To proceed along financial lines, John C. couldn't get approval. Perhaps to proceed along Admin. needs.?
- Bill Waddell – we can raise \$10, 000 to keep the K. Is that ALL that's what preventing this? It's not fair.

- Natallia Whiting.- Never felt the needs of her children were not met. All children got the help needed in Springfield K.
  - Denise Mason agreed.
- Leigh Callaway – spoke as MBC member – budget was increased to accommodate retirement & healthcare. \$300,000 wanted by school board. MBC disapproved. School budget was level funded for next year 2011-2012. He shares our thoughts that losing Springfield is NOT a cost issue.
- John C. – rebuttal.... We are assessing relative values. It implied that some monetary consideration for the value your are getting is considered. Approx \$150,000 from K-12. It is relative value & actual value. Can't tell you want square footage costs, etc....

### **Quality of education/opportunities at KRSD**

7:46p.m.

- Natallia Whiting – she thinks KRSD is top notch. Never been disappointed, however it goes downhill @ MS & HS. There is little back up from guidance at this level. No major complaints with NL Elem. (educationally).
- Paul Austin (3<sup>rd</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> grade children) – great elementary school. Challenges kids & they're supported.
- Nyla Waddell – moved to Springfield from Leb., all kids are doing well (1 in each school). Gets positive responses from all level (except HS sometimes).
- Linda Cunningham – ( 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade children) – extremely happy w/ level of education.
  - Referenced the NH State Ed. site
    - Above average attendance rates @ KRSD
    - NECAP – score higher than state average in all areas.
    - Ranked in state around 68<sup>th</sup> - top 30%
- Trish Kulacz - moved here because she loves this town & its school district.
  - Sped. Ed. Is mandated by fed law.
    - KRES accommodates excelled students & provides them with support.
    - Did research before moving here 6 years ago

- Hands down, quality is way above the rest.
- When her son went to 1<sup>st</sup> grade from Springfield K, he was somewhat left out b/c other kids had already bonded @ NL, however he quickly adjusted & fit in.
- Property value is higher because of KRSD.
- Bill Waddell – by far, KRSD is one of the better schools in the state & US. Kept up w/ times & moved forward.
- Emily C. – commented on a lot of parent involvement. Commended parents.
- Darcy Rivard– we love Kearsarge, transferred in, new to town, bought house in Springfield because of KRSD
- Paul Austin – agreed w/ Trish K.
- Tawnia Foye – researched before moving to Springfield. Indifferent w/ K – but keep in KRSD.
- Bruce Allen – moved to Springfield to be a part of KRSD, affect on property value.
- George Mc. – moved to district because he was raised in Claremont & knew he wanted to get out. KRSD stood out w/ Hanover, Bedford. Fantastic school system. Compared Springfield to Warner.
- Todd Fleury - both his girls (3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades) went through Springfield K, emotionally will miss it. Youngest is in accelerated program doing 5<sup>th</sup> grade work. Youth sports is amazing.
- Trish K. – heard Springfield kids are treated differently & given less attention. Doesn't believe that's true!
- Todd F. – personalized attention was an advantage. Love the district.
- Brandon Waddell – (child) felt disconnected at first, but now his friends were all around him
- Linda C. sited the State web site again.
  - Dropout rates – 1.7% (state 3.2%)
  - 128 in MS – high honors on NECAP
  - 13 perfect scores

- Laura Pillsbury – moved to district, academics & athletics. They choose Springfield! Have 3 children in KRSD. The experience that they have had has been phenomenal. Daughter with a learning disability - it was ID 4 weeks into being in district. The community in Springfield. Town itself doesn't offer enough to keep her here as a resident. KRSD keeps them here.
- Doris Sawyer – questioned drop out age & its effect. Linda C. – answered question.
- Jay Booker – husband of 1<sup>st</sup> K teacher (Janet). Moved from Delaware in 1973, looked all over NH – Janet picked Springfield. Daughters went to KRSD (Valedictorian & Salutatorian).
  - Doris. S – her kids lost almost a whole school year when they moved out of state for 1 year.
- Justin Hastings – went to KRSD, now has a 1<sup>st</sup> grader here, transition to NL with kids & friends. His child quickly adapted. Kids learned from K “in town” – community members, Officer Tim, Fire Fighter Frank...things our kids will not get @ NL. Good things about a small town, that the children will carry with them.

### **Discipline, Busing and other issues at KRSD**

8:06pm

- Nyla Waddell – Goffstown trucking needs new bus drivers!
- Jen Roberts – explained that her 1<sup>st</sup> grader (and a group of other children) were threatened by bus driver in regards to her disciplining riders. Nyla Placed several phone calls to Goffstown trucking. No cameras or audio on busses. Driver's husband was substitute. Kids stories match reports.
  - Linda C. – Gary Snair has resigned from Goffstown Trucking. Suggests parents contact Kim Giles or Linda directly concerning these issues.
  - Christine Haley – It's unfortunate that some of the kids from Springfield are having such a difficult time with bussing. Karen (driver of route #43) is awesome! She personally greets every child by name & is wonderful. She has a great rapport with parents, as well.
    - Leigh C. – strongly suggested the people report the GOOD things to the Transportation Committee, not just the negative.
- Kevin Lee – Are there any residents on Transp. Committee from Springfield? Having a resident on

committee would be a good way to convey this info.

- John C – asked Pam Laurie to talk about busses next year.
- No changes as of yet. Bus co. will probably meet this summer.
- There are possible changes, however... Compromise.
  - Trish K. - Her child was tired because he had such long bus rides under previous years. Presently, no child can ride more than 50 min. Bus was concerned about location of stop. Bus Co. was very accommodating & open for suggestions.
- Jen Roberts – Karen (route #43) very nice.

### Cost issues

8:14pm

- Aaron Lamb – KRSD is awesome, came from Claremont (5 years there).
- Concerns of cost & #'s going to KRSD
- Sunapee - \$15,000/student
- Leigh Callaway – look @ annual report, Springfield property tax = \$2.3 million, numbers @ town office, cost per student depends on several variables.
- Linda C – stated all info is on State web site.
  - NL = approx \$14,000/student.
- John C. – we are biggest district regarding mileage & land in state. Transportation is NOT a factor in those figures. Can't tell cost. Springfield kids are more expensive because of location. \$0.62 for every \$1 goes to KRSD. How can spending benefit our kids w/o being detrimental to education?

### Alternatives

8:20pm

- Linda C. - Very happy with district. Would love to see committee to have more of these types of meetings and a better relation w/ school committee. Several people agreed.
- Leigh C. – School board is disappointed in lack of townspeople participation. Typically it's the "peanut gallery" that shows up. Suggests Schools Committee brings up regular attendance at school board meeting

(the GOOD stuff as well).

- John C. – show up as individuals @ meetings. Talk about what KRSD does well... talking about possible @ joint selectmen meeting – changes to the KRSD charter. If we want more representation, make it part of every town's town meeting each year. Come right here for more Democracy. Decentralization of meetings @ Sutton. Make sure our kids get the education they deserve. I think we've got excellent educations. Still good things are being said & good s. Keep track of those statistics.
  - Pam. L. – committee formed to look @ KRSD charter and get more people involved with making decisions for the school district rather than the few that show up at the deliberative session.
  - Linda C. – suggests people set up a rotating schedule.
  - B. Waddell – How does the charter get changed?
    - John C. – explained it has to come back to towns for approval. Motion per. View of school board. To change it needs to be a majority within the district.
    - Leigh C. – It would go out to the district in regards to voting day.

### **Public forum ended**

8:31pm

### **Date for next meeting**

8:34pm

Wednesday June 8 2011 – 7pm @ Town Office

### **Assignment of future tasks**

8:39pm

Jeff Haley – slog through #'s – cost comparison & answer as many budget related questions that came up this evening.

Jen Roberts – look into K bussing issues and/or solutions

Janet Booker & Emily Cleaveland – revisit Kindergarten with School Board

Christine Haley – advertise next meeting

### **Assign school board meeting attendance**

\*ongoing

Emily – suggested we all make a showing @ future meetings.

Keep us connected to School board (Pam Laurie)

**Meeting Adjourn**

9:08pm

DRAFT