

**Springfield Schools Committee
Springfield, NH
9/9/11**

For interested Springfield Residents;

On Wed, August 31st, the Springfield Schools Committee met to discuss school board votes, deliberations, and all school related topics; how they affect Springfield residents and students.

Partly to make the committee somewhat less formal, and partly due to our absence of a secretary, we have opted to prepare our minutes of the meeting in letter form, to make Springfield residents aware of the issues that may impact them without the “he said”, “she said”.

This month, with Janet Booker, Todd Fleury, Leigh Callaway, Justin Hastings and Emily Cleaveland in attendance, we spoke about 7 issues that we felt were important topics to bring to the attention of parents and residents in our Town.

Free and Reduced Lunch

School districts in the State of NH receive money from the state for such things as school improvement, building renovations, and new technologies. That money is distributed to each district on a needs basis, which is calculated based on the number of students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. In other words, the more students that a district has enrolled in said program, the more money it gets from the state. We felt it important to share this information, as it might encourage folks who qualify to fill out that paperwork that the kids came home with on day 1, as all the students in the district could benefit from the additional funds from the state.

E-rate

One of those state funded grants for new technologies is called E-rate. This spring and summer, the district has been the beneficiary of some new computer equipment that will help students target and accomplish need specific learning as well as update old wiring to bring the buildings up to speed; all paid for by E-rate. These funds cannot be used for purposes other than technology improvements. If the money is not spent, it returns to the state.

Dormant Bus Stops

On August 23rd, the Intertown Record printed a complete list of bus routes. Next to some of the stops was (Dormant). The dormant stops are ones that have shown lack of activity in the past. These stops will have continued bus presence for 3 weeks. If in that time the lack of activity (no students to pick up OR drop off) remains, the bus will skip that stop until requested specifically through school channels. If your child uses the stop, there is no cause for concern; the dormant label will be lifted. If you do not use a dormant stop, but may need to in the future, you may re-activate any time by request.

Snow Plowing and Re-fueling Buses

The transportation committee reported to the board that state cutbacks of road maintenance will be affecting busing and costs this year. With guidelines that have them plowing primary roads only after they are 4-inches deep, and secondary roads at 7-inches, safe transportation of kids to school was a concern. Some less frequently traveled secondary roads will not be plowed at all between 9pm and 4am. Sections of roads in Springfield may meet this description, and residents may wish to take issue with state legislators.

Some state maintained sheds may be closed, possibly including Newbury and Wilmot, requiring school buses, which re-fuel at these sheds, to drive long distances to re-fuel, passing the costs along to the local district.

A **Firefighter 1 EMT Training Program** is being considered at the high school. Let the administration know if there is interest in such a program. jfrew@kearsarge.org Funds have been included in this year's budget for a pilot program.

Budget Time

This is the time of year that the school board immerses itself in budget deliberations. I won't say it's more exciting than Dancing With the Stars, but it is an interesting process, and you are welcome to join us in attending those meetings Thursdays in September at 6:30pm at the old middle school in NL. A complete board meeting schedule can be found at:

<http://www.kearsarge.org/11061012413443647/site/default.asp>

As that schedule often conflicts with dinner, Emily usually brings food to share.

Future of this Committee

Many thanks go out to Jeff and Christine Haley for the time they have put in on the committee. We understand their need for time for other commitments, and wish them well. It would benefit our efforts if we could find another secretary and budget-analyst. If you have an interest in the goings-on in our schools, please consider joining us. We meet as a group once a month, and our new informal format allows us to meet in casual settings with perhaps food and beverage.

If you would like to join us, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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