

Winslow Junior High Building Committee Meeting Agenda

December 4, 2012

6:00 P. M. to 7:30 P. M.

Winslow Junior High Library

1. Welcome and introductions

Eric- Thanks participants for volunteering to be a part of this committee. Explains that this committee is charged to make recommendations about the future of the current building being used for Winslow Jr. High. Eric reminded everyone that this particular topic could be charged with emotion for a number of reasons. That said, Eric encouraged everyone to express their views openly.

Attending: Doug Carville, Kyle Price, Kevin Michaud, Shelley Phillips, Will Backman, Susan Walters, Peter Thiboutot, Paula Pooler, Ron Whary, Earl Coombs, Mike Heavener, Linda Lambert, Pat Pullen, Jerry Saint Amand, Mike Fortin. Dan Wildes, Jack Nivison,

2. Meeting dates

Dates discussed. Due to other obligations, (School board, budget meetings etc.) it appears that Thursday nights would work best. In particular, the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 10th at 6:00pm. Winslow Jr. High Library.

Timelines- Would like to present a recommendation as to what we do with the building by the summer of 2014. Would like a recommendation by this group by late spring of 2013. Funding source will obviously play into any decision made. See no. 7 below.

Eric handed out 20-A section 4101 for review. Brought attention to Section 4102 closing of a school building. State money for renovations not an option for this project due to the low ranking when compared to the other 70 school projects on the list. Whatever we decide to do will be paid for by local tax dollar.

3. Town of Winslow Capital Planning Committee Report – January 2011

Eric handed out Capital Planning Committee Report- Mike. The town has addressed other more pressing building projects. The Jr. High is now at the top of the list. The town needs to take a look to determine what to do with the building. Should it continue to function as a school? Other use? Council will be awaiting a recommendation from this committee for direction.

Junior High options available A. Remodel the existing building. B. Leave the jr. high building and build a brand new school. C. Move the 6th graders out of this building immediately and build a wing on the elementary school. That would give us a two building campus. Aerial photographed passed out to see where the wing would be situated if added on to the elementary school. The elementary school was originally designed to accommodate an additional wing if necessary. D. Move the 6th graders to elementary school and build a wing on the high school.

Mike asked if there was any opportunity of consolidating with a Waterville Building? He pointed out that this question could be asked by the taxpayers. Mike is not suggesting that we do something to combine with Waterville but this committee should at least do due diligence to the idea. Eric asked the group for their thoughts. Points out that from afar (the last time this point was raised) there was no interest. John does not think that combining the school districts is in the best interest of Winslow Students. Mike reiterates, that he is not looking at combining, but he does think we ought to have looked at all possibilities/options. He suggest that we at least look at it so if questioned we can respond with a straight face that it was considered.

Kevin points out that consolidating school districts has bigger ramifications. We are currently talking about the jr. high building. If we start talking about combining, we will need to discuss grades 6-12 due to the potential implications. Eric talked about other configurations that could possibly occur by combining. Before sharing "possibilities" Eric points out that if we were to combine students we would have a jr. high in one community and a high school in another. This could be accomplished by using the two high schools. One high school would serve as the high school for both communities while the other high school would serve as the middle school for both communities. In doing so, there could be a possibility of closing down an elementary school in Waterville and moving the students to the current jr. high building which would become vacant if the students were to be consolidated to one of the existing high schools.

Obviously, there are huge political implications with such a proposal. This group was not called together to discuss "consolidation efforts, rather it was charged to look at what do we do with the current junior high school in Winslow knowing it is in need of major renovations and that any cost will rest on the backs of taxpayers.

Jack pointed out that the school districts who did combined had smaller numbers then what we are currently looking at when all is said and done. Jack points out that Winslow currently has a new high school. Waterville will have a new high school. A lot of work has been done to get us to this point.

Jerry points out that it was a healthy shared sentiment between the two communities when combining the school communities was last proposed. He reminded us that at the time, the two communities agreed to stay separate and that we may still be ahead of our time with this type of proposal.

The Consensus of the group is to table talk of consolidation of districts and simply focus on the initial issue of Winslow Jr. High

4. Present Enrollments and projections

Enrollment projections handed out. 2012-13 1282, 2011-12 Total 1296. 2010-11 1306 2009-10 1336. You can see that the numbers have been dropping. There is a cliff in grade 4 meaning, numbers will drop significantly.

5. Steve Blatt Memo- Memo handed out. We can discuss contents of the memo at the next meeting. Eric points out that if the decision is made to move students out of the existing jr. high one possible use for the jr. high building could be to combine the existing central offices.

Funding sources- QZAB money is dried up. QSCAB is still available and is not dependent on free and reduce.

Jerry points out that in five years, the town of Winslow drops two bonds. We could do whatever project we decide on then. If we can put it off that long, we wont have to raise taxes for this project. He feels we could accommodate quite comfortably what we would like to do. Jerry handed out bond payments.

6. Future agenda items including resources desired and invitations to others

John pointed out the report that Shelly once presented to the board in order to bring the building up to code in order to house students.

7. Other thoughts

8. From the Floor