

Winslow Jr. High School Building Committee Meeting  
January, 20, 2015

Committee Members

Eric Haley, Jack Nivison, Earl Coombs, Shelley Phillips, Kevin Michaud, Chris Preble, Kyle Price, Jerry St. Amand, Mike Heavener, Susan Walters, Dan Viles, Paula Pooler,

Audience

Joel Selwood,  
MaryBeth Bourgoin  
Linda Lambert

Eric

First meeting of the Building Committee since 2014. When last left, discussed the following points.

- A. We would wait until 2017/18 for construction consideration due to the town losing capital debt.
- B. We asked Steven Blatt to give us an estimate of what it would cost to build a wing off the elementary school. The cost was 5.5 million. That put a halt on things.

Discussions and thoughts continued with possibilities. Chad and Kevin approached Eric to discuss the possibility of a k-6 building and a 7-12 building due to the decline of student enrollment. Cohort survival rate (look at numbers of live births to residents of Winslow) and five years later you look at your kindergarten enrollment. For example, if you had 100 live births five years ago and 90 students enrolled in kindergarten five years later it means you have a 90% survival rate. Winslow runs a 100% survival rate over the past several years.

Survival Rate handed out (partially completed)

Only Resident Students represented on the sheet that was handed out.

Current high school has 392 students with an additional 60 tuition students.

Over the years, Tuition students to Winslow have been on the decline. This could be due to other schools that potentially feed into the high school are losing student population as well.

Current Class sizes in K through grade 3 will be around 270 students. That will be your high school in a few years. Thus, it could easily handle grade 7 and 8 moving there without a huge expense in construction. The grade 6 students could easily fit in the existing elementary school with little construction.

Jerry- Anxious to see the plan of how we would distribute the middle school students at the high school.

Wants to see a plan for the existing Middle School. A lot of people want to know what is going to happen to that building. Many have strong feelings about not letting it be destroyed

Eric discussed the possibility of making the existing Jr. High space for the two Central Offices.

Chad- Initially, there could be some space issues. Closet space, storage issues etc. May have to look at locker space. He has worked in a building that has had the 7-12 configuration. A lot of senseless fears of the older kids picking on the younger ones. In reality, they are often related, older brothers and sisters etc.

Jerry- So...next steps. Jerry explains that it sounds like our time table remains frozen until debt is paid down. Politically, we need to have a plan for the building to address the concerns of the community.

Kevin- We may need to spend some money (in the next 2.5 years) to get things ready so that the kids move into a facility that is ready. It would be a better sell for parents if they knew we were being proactive in providing an adequate facility.

Jerry- We need to be prepared to defend why we want to maintain our identity. Some people are asking why are we not regionalizing the schools? Eric mentioned that if the political will was there we could close The Hall School in Waterville and Winslow Jr. High and fit the kids in all the existing buildings.

Eric went on to explain that we are currently combining numbers with certain sports in order to offer opportunities for our students. For example, the boys swim team doesn't have enough swimmers to have a relay team. That said, they have two swimmers that are two of the best in the state but they can't compete.

Susan- There are great things that both communities have k-12. A merger of those great things would be a great educational opportunity for all. Eric used the alternative program as an example. Waterville has a program, Winslow doesn't. It would be very expensive for Winslow to establish a program. It would be a huge cost savings if Winslow could utilize the existing program in Waterville. Eric cited another example which involved the hiring of a Behavioral Specialist.

Mike- Are we suppose to be looking at the best option? We have an obligation to present the best option. Are we talking about improving programming and providing the best for our students? Should we be looking at merging with Waterville? Mike feels we have an obligation to provide the two options that are being discussed here this evening to the community. Consider the educational, financial, and political components. Also, answer the question, what does it mean if we stay separately? What are we losing?

Chad- Merging the high schools will generate a lot of discussions regarding the maintaining of a sense of pride from both communities.

Eric- Doesn't want to talk about regionalization right now. Doesn't want to confuse the issue at hand. We may have to regionalize at some point in time but let this be the first step. Need to convince people that anything we build isn't going to waste regardless of what happens in the future.

MaryBeth- Cautions conversations about regionalization. There is support for a first step (moving the

jr. high to two existing buildings).

#### Next Steps

1. Begin initial planning.
2. Schematic. What are the needs from Middle School and High School.
3. Next meeting. Thursday, April 7. 6:00pm Winslow Jr. High School.