

Winslow Jr. High School Building Committee Meeting
April 14, 2016

Committee Members

Eric Haley, Jack Nivison, Earl Coombs, Shelley Phillips, Kevin Michaud, Chris Preble, Kyle Price, Peter Thiboutot, Ray Caron, Trish West,

Audience

Ron Whary

Joel Selwood,

MaryBeth Bourgoïn

Linda Lambert

Lori Loftus Trevor Loftus

Judy Bouchard

Lisa Ericson

Kelly Daigneault

Ben Clark

Cory Dow

Isaac Sturtevant

Presenter Stephen Blatt

2018-19 Thought to convert to a two campus school facility

Mr. Blatt- Currently working on several projects similar to what we are proposing due to cost savings and enrollments dropping. He is familiar with high school. Somewhat familiar with the jr. high. Looked at the size of the middle school in terms of square footage. Looked at high school which he feels is in pretty good shape. 185 sq feet for student is the state standard. We are a medium small high school in the state of Maine. If you take our existing numbers, one can see that there is room to move. His job as the architect is to figure out what needs to happen to accommodate the needs. Will need to add 10,000 of square footage. New science wing is 20,000 sq. feet for comparison. Question, where will you put it?

Six graders will stay at the elementary school. That leaves you with a jr. high school 7/8 which is half the size of the high school.

Thoughts....

Expand the half gym.

Library- Could you open up an adjacent classroom?

Systems- Boilers are probably fine to handle

Power is fine

Real question, how do you reconfigure the inside? We need about 10,000 sq feet. Construction in the

next year or two will 201 per sq feet. Need to add 20% for other cost. Contingencies, legal work, DEP site permit etc. You could looking at a 2.6 million dollar project plus other cost to renevat and tie things together. Based on the current layout, adding a wing is very feasible.

Eric- What would be the timeline from this point forward?

Steve- Without digging in and finding other problems, if we just built a wing then we would not break through until its completed. Go to referendum next fall. Ready to go with constuction a little over a year from now. Need to do docucuments and design work. Meetings with everyone, staff and committee. Must be done with both members of jr. high and high school. After referendum need to do design development. Recommends that we follow construction management process. Construction manager goes out to bid for you immediately after referendum. You dont save money but you never go over budget. You have far fewer change overs if you go that route. Cant consier less than a year of construction even though its only 10,000 feet. You would be ready fall of 2018. Would like to finish up at the end of July.

For November referendum, need to be ready to post in September. Might want to consider a referendum earlier than November not to conflict with fall election. If you run an October referendum you can use September to educate parents. Eric would like to see an informational session in the spring of this year.

When you close a school, there is always hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings. What is interesting with this project is that you do not have to change your vehicle traffic.

Should have a public meeting at the end of the 2016 school year to let parents know what you are doing.

Questions from the audience

Ray- What about renovations at the elementary school? Is there anything needed there? Eric. Not sure we are prepared to discuss all the details at this point.

Kyle- Kevin and Kyle met and identified some needs they feel would be necessary in order to bring the sixth graders back to the elementary school. Extra traffic, bussing from a safety standpoint.

Steve suggest that we should prepare to do that at the same time. You could do this work over both summers so that you don't interrupt whats going on inside.

Ray- Concerned that there have been some referendums that have been voted down. He is concerned we don't have enough time to inform all the people (see above comments for timeline).

Chris- Do we have comparisons to show the community the cost to fix the existing building vs the proposed two building campus? Once you open walls and ceilings in an old building you find all kinds of problems. In addition, you have to do so much investigative demolition that you have a cost to bring it back. ADA requirements also play into it.

A concern is that by closing the existing jr. high is that you lose your seating in the auditorium. It is the largest space in the community.

Possible options discussed.

Ben raised a concern. Art and sports do not share space well. Even though they work well together, its difficult.

Cory raised a concern that this plan is not very well known. Is concerned that there is no information being shared. Also raised the question, why aren't we one school district? Ray responded that the community is not ready politically to consolidate to one school district. They may be there in the future but not yet. Cory also expressed some concerns with the changing student demographics.

Kevin and others responded to Cory's concerns.

Closing

Is this committee ready to make a recommendation tonight or do we want another meeting to discuss? Earl points out that we need to make a recommendation tonight if we are to meet the time lines.

Eric asks how soon does Steve need to create some graphics?

Steve- Thinks he can come up with some graphics by the end of the first week in May.

Ray makes a recommendation that we look at a two campus system k-6 and 7-12. Trish seconds.

Discussion- Challenge for the group will get the information out to the media.

Vote- 10-0

Schedule another meeting

Monday, May 2, 2016. 6:00pm. Winslow High School. Rm. 133.