

A Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Facilities and Transportation Committee was held on Monday, September 13, 2010 at 7:02 p.m. in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D.; Committee Chair George Bauer, Board members Stephen Sordi, Scott Baider, and Director of Finance and Operations Jay Hubelbank.

Audience members included: Board member Deborah Corsico, BES Principal Melinda McKenna; WMS Principal Alice Jones and approximately 8 members of the community.

Mr. Bauer presented the overall scope of data to be gathered by the committee for the report accompanying the 10-47c referendum vote. He opened the floor for questions. Questions were raised as to which configurations were being studied for the report (*two configurations, K-5 and K-2/3-5*) and who was compiling the data for the charges for this committee. (*Primarily Mr. Hubelbank and Mr. Bauer*)

Mr. Hubelbank presented and explained data on number of busses, cost of bussing. Mr. Martland (Woodbury) questioned about using software to optimize a “package delivery system” method of transporting students to school. Mr. Hubelbank explained the nature of the current busing contract is not conducive to this. Five companies bid for the current contract and we are currently in the third of five years.

Mr. Hubelbank explained the number of busses in use at the high school drives the number of busses required for the region. (18 large, 3 small) He explained the bus company creates the bus routes. The school busses periodically record the times each bus leaves the lot and arrives at school. (As well as vice-versa).

Mr. Alex Desorbo (Woodbury) asked how many school configurations are going to be presented in the referenda. He was concerned that Mr. Hubelbank and other administrators would be spending significant time during the school year preparing data for this study. (*Only two*)

Ms. Corsico stated we should not be guessing about data concerning the future. She stated we should be not including any data that is not objective in the report. The report should not include any data that are not hard numbers or subjective.

Ms. Eileen Budrewicz (Woodbury) stated she was concerned that we were only using next year’s enrollment numbers and not looking forward.

Mr. Hubelbank then discussed enrollment, required staffing, class sizes, and school class rooms.

Mr. Hubelbank noted the proposed two K-5 school student allotment considers a ratio of northern woodbury students attending Bethlehem based on the previous boundary line. This ratio is from the previous K-5 configuration and is applied to the current student enrollment. Mr. Hubelbank recommended a new enrollment study to present a better estimate.

Ms. Melissa Colby (Woodbury) voiced concern regarding keeping rooms available for literacy intervention.

Ms. Corsico voiced concern over the equity of class size for each school. She also noted equity of school condition is important as renovations to Mitchell were not approved in previous building project referenda.

Ms. Pam Gengenbach (Woodbury) noted the original plans for Mitchell accounted for 600 students and Mr. Hubelbank's K-5 projection is with 461 students.

Mr. Hubelbank explained three portables were taken down over the summer due to poor and unacceptable conditions.

Ms. Budrewicz voiced concern over special education facilities and inquire if we utilize Pre-K and STAR program information for student projections.

Dr. Cronin explained projection and services required for different levels of special needs students. The "birth to three" program is also used for projections.

Mr. Baidier discussed the importance of bussing and plans for different tiers of bussing considering the new state guidelines for graduation requirements. Ms. Ferreira will be addressing this with her staff and administration.

Mr. Desorbo expressed concern of where the boundary line exists (*Shown on marked up copy of Woodbury map*)

Ms. Candace Fernandez asked if the boundary line definition will be provided to the public before the vote. (*The estimate Mr. Hubelbank used will be provided*)

Ms. Budrewicz stated that class size equity is important to her and teachers with smaller class sizes do a better job.

Mr. Sordi noted the class equity across a single grade vs. importance of overall equity for the grade span in the same school.

Ms. Budrewicz questioned if there were any science rooms in the two elementary schools. (*Not currently*)

Meeting adjourned 8:52 PM