

JACKSON SCHOOL BOARD
May 8, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.
JACKSON GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Draft Work Session Minutes

The work session was called to order at 6:30 pm by Genn Anzaldi. Present are: Jerome Dougherty, Genn Anzaldi, Keith Bradley, Kate Fournier, Pam Stimpson, Gayle Dembowski – Principal. Jessica DellaValla is absent.

Work session on Early Childhood Education

- Determine whether to move forward with a public preschool initiative for 2019-2020
 - Mr. Dougherty, Ms. Fournier feel that we should move forward. Mr. Bradley supports public preschool but is not in a rush to put it forward.
- If yes –
 1. Review unresolved issues from town meeting- use of basement, is this the right location, in this building? Should we examine a scholarship fund? Right now it does not appear that we can do that legally, but SB193 may affect that in the future. Ms. Dembowski is concerned that there are some families who could not access preschool even with a scholarship or voucher, and we would need to offer transportation as well in order to be equitable to all children. Bartlett is not inviting our students over at this point. Mr. Bradley would like to explore having just 4 year olds and putting them in a pre K-K classroom. Ms. Fournier would like to be able to have more complete answer for townspeople. Mr. Bradley feels that it should be a one year trial, then put it on a warrant. Mr. Dougherty – another issue was about enrollment numbers. The Board is in agreement that the basement idea should be discontinued. Ms. Dembowski is concerned about putting the 4 year olds in with the K students. Ms. Stimpson feels that the Board should move away from the concerns about numbers of students in the room. Mr. Dougherty feels that last year's plan was good, so we need to relay information better.
 2. Determine whether to revise proposal or new proposal - NEW
 3. Determine tasks (additional information needed, etc.) enrollment, pull out basement, just 4 year olds, budget if just 4 year olds. Ms. Dembowski reinforced that the preschool age group needs to have 2 people in their room. Mr. Bradley feels that we should have looked at the 6th graders prior to looking at preschool. Would that solve the building issues? Ms. Stimpson would like to "a grade not being here" would that solve the building issues. If enrollment hits a certain number, how does this impact space needs? Public communication will continue. Ms. Dembowski would like to know if other buildings would be considered. Mr. Bradley is against that. Mr. Dougherty is concerned with the safety of alternate buildings.
 4. Determine process (committee, assigned individuals, etc.) – School e-news – ask additional people to join the committee. It will be advertised for 2 weeks.

There will be two Board members, two community, Ms. Dembowski, and 2 staff. Ms. Anzaldi would like to have Pam on the committee, as well as a community member who is against the preschool. Mr. Dougherty would like one board, 1 community, and staff. Mr. Bradley is not sure we need a committee. Ms. Stimpson recommends using I-Social. She feels that seven members is a good number.

5. If committee, determine numbers and Chair – 7 members – three community, two school board, Ms. Dembowski and Ms. Stimpson.
 6. If assigned individuals, assign - Ms. Fournier will be on the committee, either Ms. Anzaldi or Ms. DellaValla will be the other members.
 7. Timeline – Have this done and in place by September. Meeting is August 20.
- Public comment – Penny is unsure about the purpose and goal of the committee. She does not feel that Ms. Stimpson should be on the committee, but should be a valued advisor. Tish – Feels that the Pre-K/K option would have passed easily. It will always be viable if they are already in with the K. Stabilize the budget and the school. Sarah found online that it costs Jackson \$28000 per student. Median household income in Jackson is \$79000. The student number trend is going down. Peter – feels that all of this has already been talked about. If the School Board is for this, be strong advocates. He doesn't feel that another committee is needed. Denise – ditto a lot of what Tish had to say. Approves of the pre-K-K configuration. Bartlett was successful because of a previous private preschool that could show a track record, and a population three times the size of ours. Penny – differs with what Pete says about taxes, depending on the home, taxes have increased for many. Emily – a big portion of the Bartlett/Conway piece was the community engagement piece that Jackson was not a part of. (Raising New Hampshire). Sarah – Community Calendar in the newspaper should be utilized as well. Penny – transportation/including it. Ms. Dembowski mentioned it tonight, but it was never mentioned with the preschool idea. Ms. Dembowski was talking about needing to provide transportation if vouchers were provided. She would also like the committee to consider the kid's perspective. Mr. Bradley would like to table whether we will have a committee, until the next meeting. The committee is not being formed tonight.

Mr. Dougherty made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm, Mr. Bradley seconded. ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary