

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES February 7, 2008

Attending: David Das, Larry Pelletier, Bonnie Hayes, Kathi Cutler, Vickie Gaylord, Jim Miller, Pat Gautier, Roger Lajoie, Marnie Coleman, Verne Paradie, Keri Myrick, Ben Demers, Tanya Gagne, Tom Morrill, Jude Cyr, Billy Hunter. Facilitator: Elaine Dow
Absent: Greg Merritt, Ron Potvin, Bruce Bickford

Ground Rules

- Be clear about your own point of view
- Honor other points of view
- Start and end on time

Next meeting: February 14, 2008
5:15 – Tour Webster
6:00 – Meet at Park

NEXT TIME:

- List of programs in each school
- What would elementary schools use the extra space for...if 6th grade were to move to AMS

WALTON TOUR

- Walton's facility work in the past few years includes a security system, roof section work, new windows, doors, columns refurbished, painting.
- Walton has steam heat. Its boiler is the most inefficient in the district. It will be replaced soon.
- The windows in the gym retain the character of the old building.
- Walton was built in 2 eras: the 30's and the 60's. It has 2 floors. Up until 1998, Walton housed the 9th grade.
- While the classrooms are large, storage space is lacking.
- One of the "spare" classrooms will be used for 4th grade next year.
- There is room in the building but it depends on what it can be used for. The school doesn't have more room in the primary/head start/Pre-K wing) but there is other room in the building. Maybe for specialized programs?

AMS

- Achievement data for one year (whole group) indicates there does not seem to be a significant difference in achievement when analyzed according to grade configuration. (4-6, 5-6, 5-8, 6-8, K-6, K-7, K-8). Note: We did not analyze over multiple years or for all subgroups.)
- State Department of Education exerts no influence on the grade level configuration of a new facility; it is a local decision.
- 6th grade at the middle school would have its own wing, use a team approach, have its own lunch block, engineer a stronger transition. The unified arts program would be a real plus for 6th graders, some of whom like the hands-on program and others need something over and above academic courses. Reaction to expanding to 6 – 8 received a positive reaction at AMS' last PTO meeting.
- Would you have to add unified arts space and staff? *Not sure about space but definitely staff.*
- Would students play on the same sports? *Have to look at other models. We do play some teams 6-8 teams.*
- Would any 6th grade teachers lose their jobs? *They would probably move with the students.*
- Students would have access to higher level courses; for example algebra.
- Will 6th grade students feel more stress to exceed academically if they are in with 7th and 8th grade?
- Communication between 6th 7th and 8th grade teachers would be easier. Gr. 6 – 8 have the same learning targets in the Maine Learning Results.
- What's most missing from AMS is a sense of belonging...parents and students feel like it's a 2 year "landing strip."
- Is having Pre-K going to cost us more money down the road because MaineCare has been cut?