

Notes 3-9-11

Pelham Education Visioning Committee

Attending: Kathy Weilerstein (briefly), Janet Scott, Ed Martin, Fred Vanderbeck, Warren Hall, Tom Fanning, Darius Modestow, Lisa Desjarlais, Claire Kurtz (notetaker)

Kathy opened meeting and recommended we present update to Pelham School Committee at their April 7 meeting. Reminded us our role is not to make decision but to gather information. She announced school committee rep on the visioning committee may change.

Tom presented summary of his meetings with Rob Detweiler, business manager of ARSD, on Nov. 4 and Mar. 4. Population in all four towns is slowly declining. School assistance loan will be repaid in 15 years (2026). Current balance of loan is \$930,000. Discussion of school choice numbers, Pelham student numbers, school capacity and various strategies for reducing school budget or increasing revenue.

Warren recommended framing the discussion in a clear way to attract people interested in relocating to Pelham who may be confused about the purpose of the discussion about education in Pelham. Discussed need to describe our work as what it is: proactive and supportive of strong educational planning in Pelham.

Darius suggested school committee create a 5-year plan including enrollment projections and budget factors (revenue sources and educational structure choices). A 5-year plan will contribute to stability.

Discussion of information we need to gather including:

- Last 25 years of school enrollment figures and projection of next 5 years
- Next 5 years of budget projections
- At what point will we reach capacity if we continue to enroll school choice students; effect on reserve account
- From census: how does number of preschoolers compare to number of kindergartners in subsequent year
- What is the capacity of the building
- Costs associated with adding preschool

Assignments: Darius will create a summary of everything we've discussed. Tom will review projections relative to school choice costs. Janet will gather enrollment data from last 25 years and projection of next 5 years. Lisa will look into preschool costs.

Next meeting: Mar. 30, 6:30pm, Pelham School

Agenda: Review above assignments. Plan presentation for School Committee meeting April 7, 6pm, Community Center