MSAD #58 Board Workshop Table Notes
Thursday, September 6, 2018 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Kingfield Elementary School

Prompt #1:
What change in the district do you feel are necessary to increase efficiency? (Buildings, staffing levels, closing schools, etc.)

Table 1:
- Consolidate Buildings -
    18 +/- % decrease warrants it?
    30 +/- % decrease of high school numbers
    - Close elementary (x1? x2?) and move elementary to high school
    - Close high school and add high school to existing elementary with most capacity
    (why is high school population decreasing more than elementary population?)
    - Combine with Carrabec
    - New high school building more central (including Carrabec) - largely State funded - new building
- Increase Enrollment
    Spend more???
    Foreign enrollment? $$
    - "Sell" low enrollment - quality of life, of education…
- Reduce Administration
    No Assistant Principal at High School
    One Secretary (not two)
    Share Superintendent between Carrabec and MSAD #58
    Share Rangeley and MSAD #58 Tech Bus to Farmington

Table 2:
- Pre-K to Grade 6 in each elementary school and add grades 7 & 8 to high school. Senior center or daycare on empty space.
- Tuition high school students out
- Cost difference between operating 9-12 and State tuition rate?
- PreK - grade 3 in one building/ grades 4-6 in one building/ grades 7-8 in one building
- One campus

Table 3:
- Outsourcing non-essential work
    Janitorial staff - grandfather current staff
    Busing

- Breakdown district - keep K-12 in each town
  - Do we have enough space in the schools for this? Strong is not.
- Outside evaluation of efficiency of each school and predictor of population up or down

Table 4:
- Possibly combining buildings, combining classrooms, reducing staff, attending other schools, ed tech combo with Teacher in larger classrooms, look more carefully at spending, satellite classes

Table 5:
- Transportation - rethink the old system
- Being more fiscally responsible with maintenance - ask for more input from residents and teachers (i.e bleachers vs. driveway + teacher vs. gym floor)
- Build a budget from $0 to put the focus on students, their needs (teachers), then teacher needs, etc. (Stop starting with cuts to previous year).
- Energy efficiency (example: heat regulation)
- Grant writer
- 4 day weeks
- Afford our schools we have!!!
- Dept. efficiency
- Actually implement some changes - not just listen

Table 6:
- Consolidate buildings
  - Move some grade levels to a single building (K-2, 3-5, 6-8)
  - Possible savings of 1/3 teaching staff? (EPS revenue increase $250K?)
  - Close a building
- Costs - Transportation
- Technology Costs - go to a less expensive option
- Advantages to grouping grades:
  - Same instruction across the board
  - Move Admin around based on strengths

Table 7:
Efficiency is not the only thing that needs to be considered. How changes impact the students/ the quality of the education we offer is an equally important consideration.

We think younger children should stay in their communities regardless of the effect in efficiency. While closing a school in one of our communities might bring significant savings in the budget, what is the greater cost to students and their families and in direct proportion, the towns and the district as a whole.

Out table would consider a change that have grades 7/8 on a combined campus (but not combined with the 9-12 students). Will that leave us more empty classrooms? Are there

other community services that could be offered in that space? Are there other school services that would use any empty spaces?

    The transition the towns are in with loss of long-time employers (like the mills), it creates some of the struggle. We need to make our area attractive to businesses and people, including our schools and also attractions (hiking, biking, things to do).

Prompt #2:
If you could build a school system to serve the resident students, what would that look like?

How would you change this designated system if it was to serve all existing tuition students (approx. 165 students) as well as resident students?

Table 1:

Table 2:
- One campus

Table 3:
- Use building as Community Centers
- Differential modules based on student outcome. Not based on age but on knowledge.
- Teacher evaluation should not be based on student state assessment scores.
- Get Back to Basics!! Teaching students what they need to learn - 0 standardized testing
- Less assessments - State mandated
- No difference for tuition students
- What can we learn from other countries? (more outside time - less standardized testing)
- Have Senators & Representatives advocate for change rapidly
- Outreach programs over summer/ utilizing student/ parent involvement

Table 4:
- One campus, separate wings for each age grouping (ex: K/1, 2/3), encourage tuition students to attend, Safety (not sure of attending other schools that are much larger)

Table 5:
  #1. We would not be interested in such a place. It does not reflect our reality.
  #2. If going extreme… build a super campus that meets the needs of all students in one location (Mt. Abram is central and beautiful). *This is <u>NOT</u> our preference; worst case scenario.*

Table 6:
- EPS ratios met
- Art
- Music

- Foreign Language
- Better G/T all levels
- Sports/ Intramurals
- Great Food - free lunch
- Community / Service Learning

Does not matter if students are local or tuitioned. They all deserve the same.
Felt this was a bad prompt. It was leading and seemed irrelevant. A better prompt might be, "what makes for great education".

Table 7:

We struggled to answer this question, but we did not think that option #1 makes sense. We think the system designed should accommodate the tuition students. They are paying their way.

We think the kind of school system we have is the one we would choose to design.

The biggest problem we see is declining enrollment - what can we do as communities to attract young families, like those with children? We want to attract more students, not make smaller schools.

Who doesn't want to pay less taxes? But continuing to have people leave will not help this problem. We also need to look to the priorities for our town's municipal budgets. Are there ways to trim other areas in the town budgets other than cutting funding to education? Education isn't the only thing our taxes are funding.

We discussed closing one school and have significant reservations about this option, practically speaking. Can the towns help the people on fixed incomes in some way, instead of reducing education services? Why are we pitting our elderly against our children?

Prompt #3:
Given the data shared, what other information would be helpful to make a more informed decision about the future of MSAD #58?

Table 1:

Table 2:

Table 3:
- How many paid employees in the District? (175)
- How much money total is spent on busing?
- How many standardized tests are taken from K-12?
- How many homeschoolers in the district? How many utilize services?
- If we did consolidate schools, are there any options that have been thought about?

Table 4:
- Which schools would be the most effective to close (cost)?

Table 5:
- Show the comparative data for other Franklin County districts and surrounding districts
- More info. about EUT funds and billing as well as billable students. Include all funds from tuitioned sending towns (ex. Carrabassett).
- Actual costs of consolidation plans such as transportation (inc. increases in bus drivers and numbers of buses)
- A focus on how to fund and maintain the small schools instead of cuts.
- Actual savings from a 4-day week (is this even an option?)
  - Potential savings:
    - Transportation
    - Hourly employees
    - heat/ electricity
    - Feeding costs

Table 6:

Table 7:

Mill Rates (specifically the part that goes toward the school budget).

We have to stop looking at the district as 4 communities - we have to look at the district as a whole. Tax burdens shift every year, back and forth between areas.

Cost comparison to other districts?

Hypothetical cost to retrofit an average elementary school into a high school? State aid? Having this number would be useful information.

What would it cost or save to send the 7th & 8th grades to the high school campus?