

CHELSEA SCHOOL BOARD
JANUARY 30, 2017 – 7:00 PM
SOUTH ROYALTON SCHOOL
DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Board Members: Joe Spinella, Rebecca Mattoon, Jessie Schmidt, Deborah Ackerman, Emily Marshia

Community Members: Jason Goodrich, Stephanie Joyce, Jess Anderson, Sue Kay, Mark Blount, Matt Hongoltz-Hetling-Valley News

1. Called to Order at 7:09 p.m.
2. Review of Creation of a District or Districts that Operate Some Grades and Tuition Others.

Jessie noted that the tax projections for this proposal are basically the same as in PreK-12 and PreK-8 proposals.

\$1.69 compared to \$1.71 in 2020

Joe raised board representation: PreK-12 is using at-large voting for each town. All towns help choose three representatives from each town. PreK-8 has town specific voting. Should Chelsea members suggest that we make this change for the PreK-8 proposal? Consensus was yes.

Jason Goodrich – if we are going to be one school district, shouldn't we have a say in everyone who represents it. This questions supported the notion above.

Page 3 – closing the high school vote: The vote to approve the merged district between Chelsea and Tunbridge will assume approval that Chelsea will close its high school.

Tuition for high school students – what are the restrictions?

Public school- full tuition

Private school- state wide average paid; family is responsible for the remainder

Out of state school – state wide average paid; family is responsible for the remainder

2018 start date for merged district.....high school in place in Chelsea next year.

Jason Goodrich - PreK – would it still be offered at OCPCC or with new space in the building, would it be in the school? That would be for the new board to decide.

Buildings – does the school or the town own the gym and the land it is on? School owns the gym

Voting – very confusing that Chelsea does not get a vote on this study committee...do you feel safe that the other towns will vote for it? Yes

Strafford, Sharon, Stockbridge and Tunbridge vote on the study committee for PreK-6/8

Chelsea will vote with the PreK-12 study committee as an original member there.

The Chelsea/Tunbridge merger is contingent upon the passing of the PreK-12 merged district with Bethel, Rochester, and South Royalton. For example, if the merger passes in Chelsea and Tunbridge, but fails in the PreK-12 towns, the entire proposal package fails and no towns realize the financial incentives and all towns lose their small schools grants. All mergers must pass by December 31, 2017 to qualify as side-by-side districts.

Will there be informational meetings for the PreK-8 merger for Chelsea and Tunbridge? Yes

3. Adjourned at 7:54 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Marshia, Clerk