

Meeting Notes
BRUNSWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Description	Meeting with School Board
Date	June 26, 2013/49
Attendees	<u>PDT</u> : Lyndon Keck, Tracie Reed
Purpose	The school board discussed various scenarios for addressing needed facility upgrades for K-5 and the District's Junior High School

TOPIC	COMMENTS
Overview	1. The school board members discussed various scenarios for addressing the condition of the Junior High School and both facility and capacity issues affecting Coffin elementary and the district's capacity at the K-5 level. 2. A major concern is the limited size of the Columbia Avenue site which currently houses Coffin Elementary School, Brunswick Junior High School and the District's bus garage. 3. There has been a trend in the district of several additional students per grade level entering the district in each year. Kindergarten screenings also suggest that the district's enrollments will continue to increase.
	4. The group was inclined to look at new construction for the elementary school considering the cost difference between renovating the building and new construction. Building a new building is also preferred by bonding agencies and would provide a longer life-span and greater value for the town in terms of reduced energy consumption and maintenance. 5. Constructing the building off of the Columbia Avenue site would allow additional room for the Junior High School and reduce disruption during the construction process for students. Exploration of the Jordan Acres site seems like an obvious choice though the board said it would be open to additional sites as well. 6. Lyndon noted that an analysis of the Jordan Acres site has not been completed and that utilizing the site for a PreK-2 school would be more challenging than a K-5 school on the site because there are strict egress requirements governing designing a school with students in grades Pk-I on floors above ground level.
	7. The board agreed that a walkable, in-town site was important and is something highly valued by the community.
	8. Funding the projects locally will have an enormous impact on property taxes. At the K-5 level, in addition to facility condition considerations there is also capacity issue. It was agreed that addressing the elementary school seemed like the best priority. Richard Ellis stated that the system is seeing growth of 3-4 students at every grade level.
	9. It was agreed that the 'light-touch' renovation recommendations should be taken off the table.
	10. There was consensus that starting construction on the Junior High School would ideally begin in 3-5 years, though planning would begin sooner. The concept of planning the projects in advance instead of rushing into renovating them was preferable considering the tax dollars at stake. 11. It was also agreed that when the state of Maine completes an updated capital improvement list that the junior high school was more likely to rank higher on the list than Coffin.
Next Steps	12. The committee agreed to have the facilities committee work with PDT to develop a timeline which would allow public comment on the committee's suggested prioritization of the projects and the next steps that would be required to further develop the projects.
	13. The committee's concept for comment from the public is the construction of a new 660-student PreK-2 school on either the Jordan Acres site or another site off Columbia Avenue and planning to begin construction to address the Junior High School in 3-5 years time.

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