

**New Hartford Public Schools
Adhoc Enrollment Projection Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE: February 27, 2017

LOCATION: Multi- Purpose, Ann Antolini

PRESENT: Karl Hermonat, Josh Adams, Nancy Schroeder-Perez, Mary Misiorski, Kate Rieger, Roxanne Pangallo, Brian Murphy

ABSENT: Jonathan Costa, Lila Tuxbury, Peter Humphrey

CALL TO ORDER: Karl Hermonat, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

1.) Discussed brainstorm ideas gathered by the group and the public. We have many great ideas that should be considered and looked into further, however we do not have sufficient time for further review. The subcommittee was informed at the last Adhoc meeting by the BOE chair that a final recommendation to the board was required for the BOE meeting in March.

2.) Discussed final recommendations to the Board of Education.

Motion by Kate Rieger to make the following recommendation to the Board of Education:

“The Adhoc Enrollment Subcommittee recommends not closing any school during the 2017-2018 school year to give the Board of Education sufficient time to digest and disseminate the population data and more importantly to seek public input and garner support for any decision from the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance.”

Second by Roxanne Pangallo; passed with Karl Hermonat, Nancy Schroeder-Perez, Kate Rieger, and Roxanne Pangallo voting aye while Josh Adams and Mary Misiorski were opposed.

Motion by Josh Adams to make the following additional recommendation to the Board of Education:

“The Adhoc subcommittee suggests that the 10 year data does not support the current configuration of schools. The BOE should investigate future uses of the school buildings to maximize funds available for student education. This ad-hoc subcommittee recommends the development of a district 5 year plan to provide direction for future use of buildings.”

Second by Kate Rieger; unanimously approved

3.) Public Comment

Tom Buzzi - supports 2-5 long term plan to see where the numbers come in, voiced concern over impact to property values

Kelly O'Dell - questioned the projection accuracy since it is so far off for next year's K class vs known enrollment. Daycare and pre-schools in the area are full – there is a need for more in the community

Jen Zenuh – suggested the committee review the report done in the past for consolidating among district towns completed in 2012-2013, suggested enhancing pre-K into separate sections for 3 and 4 year olds, supports Oak Hill and how their program integration helps all students at Antolini, suggested listening to administrators and teachers to understand what is best for our schools, questioned if Milone and MacBroom report used property owners data (who may not reside on their property) or renter information in determining the number of women in child bearing years in town.

Erica Mumm – asked why the committee isn't putting more effort into growing our schools and town, questioned what time period is needed for long term plan and 5 years may not be enough, suggested that there is evidence of a growing number of children in town under 5 based on attendance at library and other events.

Donna LaPlante – disappointed nothing is recommended by the committee for the following school year 2018-19 and that we are kicking the can down the road, commented that we need to be realistic in our evaluation and not emotional, commented on the value of Oak Hill, commented that we could do more for our school system by making tough choices, commented that we should form a plan and keep people of the community informed.

4.) Meeting Adjourned at 7:56pm

Respectfully Submitted by Karl Hermonat