

Activities meeting with E/M 3-15-2020 at Friend media center

Present from Friend Paul S. Scott S. Scott V. Mr. Kraus and Mrs. Stutzman

E/M had 3 board members, and both administrators also.

We did a review of each of our last week's regular board meetings and public comments that we received. Both of our comments from our meetings were very similar with no one out right against doing sports and consolidation. Many had more questions and or concerns and at that point did not have all the info. Unification instead of a consolidation was brought up. In a unification the original districts stay separate, but we are together. Basically, unification is living together with no long-term commitment plan and after a time you can then separate and go on your own. There is a board in each town and then one together and it was discussed that this can be very contentious as it can pit boards against each other on issues. I guess the bottom line we discussed is how you build a culture and a working relationship when you know there is nothing that will keep us together and can leave and go on our own. Teachers then when you dissolve a unification go back to their original contract school and the ones that are hired during unification would be split up between the districts which can be a problem. So, this was discussed but was decided not what we are looking for.

We now moved into more talks as to how a consolidation might look like. Please remember this is just committee talk it all must be full board approval.

It was recommended that we consider doing K-5 and then a middle school 6-8. The principals gave input into this suggestion and there was talk on curriculum on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade that it is kind of in between but felt this would be the best possible option. So, then we discussed how this would look. Here is what we have worked out so far on classes.

Each site would have own preschool

K-5 in Exeter

6-8 middle school in Friend

9-12 High school in Friend

We then talked about bussing and since they do contract bussing is that operation willing to take on our bussing as well. They have been contacted and asked, and they are willing to talk so this will need to be an item that needs more attention and time.

We talked about they have tykes and they do not take title money and both superintendents said this is something they would be able to work out.

There was a brief talk about possibility of offering early retirement in next 2-4 years and principals told how many would be eligible from each district. Nothing more was discussed on this as it is further down the road.

We then talked about what a timetable would look like if we were to do a consolidation. There was a couple ideas put out there and was discussed one idea that came was sports this fall (20-21 school year) and then consolidation in for the 22-23 school year so that there was ample time to get things ready or worked on. So there was discussion on this for a bit and then it was put out that do we really need 2 years of planning to make this consolidation work when you are already doing sports and now just have the academic side to work on? So was put out that we coop sports for this coming year (20-21 school year) and then we work towards a consolidation for the 21-22 school year. With a vote on consolidation this coming summer to give a good year to plan. More discussion was held on this and was agreed upon that this would be our recommendation. In this discussion conferences came up and we would have to reapply to the CRC to get in and we would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest school in that conference. It was also shared that the pioneer conference would welcome us in as well if we wanted that. And it was said and strongly suggested that which conference we are in does not hold any of this up. And we would need to apply to CRC by the first half of May so the superintendents can vote on it and then it would go to the full boards to vote.

We then discussed the Milligan school. Discussion was held and was said the building is a big part of the community and do not want to let it go. Here is the suggestion that was made. The new district would enter into an interlocal agreement with the village that the school owns the building and the village has control of it and its usage and they maintain it and pay the insurance and heat and all utilities and the upkeep of it. The new district would put some money each year towards this interlocal agreement, and we would have to agree on a time frame for the length of this agreement and payment. The district would not have any personal there or be responsible for anything there other than the payment each year. It was said there is lots of town activities there now as in Sunday night town team basketball and club volleyball as well as other community things.

We then talked about what and where athletics would be and look like if we coop this coming year and did consolidation the following year. This is what we discussed and are bringing back to the board.

Football both varsity and Jr. High will practice in Exeter or Milligan and ALL games will be in Milligan this coming fall and moving forward.

High school volleyball would practice and play in Exeter. Jr. High would practice as they can in Exeter but would also practice in Friend as they only have one gym. And their games would mostly be in Exeter and then possibly high school would have to practice on their game's days

in Friend but that all depends on times of Jr. high games. And this can be decided by coach's and AD's

Softball for this coming fall will stay the same. Will monitor and if we can field our own softball team if we consolidate.

Girls golf would be here in Friend, and this is in the fall

Girls' and boys' varsity and Jr High basketball practice and play games in Friend.

Wrestling would be in Friend. Some discussion on Jr. High wrestling and when CRC does Jr High wrestling so will need to get more clarification on that.

Track will be here both practice and home meets.

Boys golf here as well.

We talked about activities policy and student handbooks would need to be updated to align with each other.

Some discussion was held on booster clubs and what that would look like. It was suggested that the Presidents of them and officers meet and work it out as it is not really part of the school operation.

We talked about the busing for practices and for games. It will be something that we will have to continue to work out to some extent as we get into things. A lot of the practice's location will be worked out on logistics with the coaches and athletic directors as to what makes most sense as to where kids are and so forth.

It was agreed upon that at our regular meeting in April we will take more public comment on this and would then have a special meeting the 29<sup>th</sup> of April to hear additional comments and to have a vote on just the cooping of sports for this coming year. Then we would continue to work on the consolidation and items that would need to be worked on and have a joint public meeting in in early part of summer and go from there. We also talked about doing a student survey after the April board meeting when this all is discussed at public meeting.