

**EAST MILLINOCKET SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 5:00**  
**EAST MILLINOCKET MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Robert Leathers, Chairperson (absent)  
Dan Byron  
John MacLeod  
John Sheehan  
Amy Linscott

- I. The workshop was called to order at 5:04 by Dan Byron, Vice Chairperson
  
- II. Discussion: Improving communications and ways to save money under current economic conditions
  - a. Mark, Mark and Gary put forth some ways/options for saving money.
    - i. Evaluate the space we have
    - ii. Ascertain the best way to educate students
    - iii. Would one building be better to maintain than two?
  - b. Discussion
    - i. K-4 or go back to K-8 and 9-12 tuition
    - ii. Separate grades K-4 and grades 9-12 with grades 6-8 at Medway. We cannot wait for Medway to decide what to do.
    - iii. How much of Opal is used?
    - iv. i.e. Longly School also serves as a community center for its senior citizens..
    - v. If we don't want two principals this would solve the issue
      1. Dyer Brook has this set-up.
    - vi. We would still have the same educational staff but not custodial
    - vii. We still need to heat the building
    - viii. With Emphasis on cutting cost, what do we do?
      1. Past talk: Using the building as a living center (sell it).
      2. There would be some electric savings but the move would involve moving expenditures to the high school building rather than at Opal.
      3. Want a good education which may require adding a wing and this may cost us some money now but may equate to savings later.

## East Millinocket September 14, 20009

- ix. Enrollment:
  - 1. Elementary            152 students) vs. the 401 in the past
  - 2. High School            178 students)
- x. This might serve as a contingency plan if the mill goes down, it is good to look at it now.
- xi. Need to consider going to the town for approval
- xii. Will we have a mill in five years?
- xiii. Communication:
  - 1. Selectmen noted that we get clumps of minutes
  - 2. Suggest we meet more often with the selectmen across the table for 30 minutes
  - 3. Opening up meetings to public comment after discussions was considered as possible.
- c. Building closure:
  - i. Need answers:
    - 1. Related to costs of closure and savings
    - 2. Need:
      - a. People to look at the building
      - b. To know future cost savings
      - c. To know the benefits to students
      - d. To know what we need to do to make this work
      - e. To know feelings of people with elementary students going to high school
      - f. To know the impact on education
- d. Other topics:
  - i. Postpone to November selectman and board referendum
    - 1. Allows current people from the respective legislative bodies to support the budget and answer questions at the town meeting
    - 2. The town will check with Maine Municipal Association legal department.
    - 3. Check Board Policies.
- e. Public comment:
  - i. Tuition students:
    - 1. The actual cost compared to what we receive needs to be considered. Is it costing us more, when tax payers make up this difference in educational operating expense vs. tuition in East?
    - 2. This was passed by a referendum vote in the 80's. Is this the correct thing to do now?
    - 3. The state sets the rate for the high school tuition, you cannot exceed this.
    - 4. Elementary rate is actual cost.
- f. Next: Get back to the selectmen related to the next meeting time.
- g. Building closure:

**East Millinocket September 14, 2009**

- i. Continue to work with neighbors you've worked with in the past.
- ii. Medway does not want to close a building and we need to move forward now and make decisions.

**III.** A motion was made by John MacLeod and seconded by Amy Linscott to adjourn.

Vote: 4 yes Time adjourned: 6:35

Respectfully submitted,

Sara C. Alberts, Superintendent of Schools