

Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee

Meeting with Lamoine School Committee

Name of Group: Lamoine School Committee
Date of Meeting: November 10, 2015
Chair or contact person: Katrina Kane, Superintendent
Brett Jones, Chair

Phone number:

Number of people attending:

LCPC: Fred, Kathie, Val, Bob, Richard, Andrea, Mike and Brett
School Committee: Bret Jones, Val Peacock, Michael Brann, Gordon Donaldson and Bob Pulver
Others: Katrina Kane (superintendent), Dawn McPhail

Focus or primary responsibility of group: Educating Lamoine children: running a K-8 school and coordinating high school attendance.

Work of this group in actively planning for the future: Much of the focus over the past year plus has been to become a school system, since Lamoine chose to withdraw from RSU 24. The library has been moved to the front portable. A Life Skills program needed to be added in a very brief period of time.

Lamoine partners with Ellsworth and Hancock on a number of levels: shared Tech director, business director, and human resource department are shared with Ellsworth. Professional enhancement is shared with the RSU and there are joint extracurricular teams with Hancock.

Looking 10-15 years into the future, the School Committee would like to see the school become a community resource such that even non-parents used it regularly and felt comfortable in the building. A Wi-Fi capability would help with this. The community may become a resource that staff can utilize to enrich activities available to students. Emerging Drama Club may become an example.

Expressed concerns of group relating to focus or primary responsibility:

Current facility improvement plans do not include expansion, but include better windows, a real door and windows in the kindergarten room and a new roof in 4-8 years. The current facility (built mostly in 1974) is considered to be in great shape. The portables have their drawbacks, including security issues and a lack of water/bathrooms. A larger gym would be a good thing.

Although enrollment in the school is lower than 10-15 years ago (currently about 116), the school is nonetheless very busy and crowded. Students move around in the school environment much more than they did previously, and more and more functions demand a permanent space.

High school education is expensive: should Lamoine be asking for more as buyers? Lamoine students are well-prepared for high school and sought after by the high schools. High school choice is seen as one of the primary advantages Lamoine has in attracting families with children.

Other issues aspirations raised by one or more School Committee members:

- Create an excellent school and it will be a draw for the community
- Let the arts explode
- It will be more cost-effective to hire talented, flexible teachers, rather than trying to have every beneficial program
- pre-kindergarten program should be added.

Expressed concerns of individuals on matters not related to focus or primary responsibility:

There should be robust regulation of commercial water extraction

Housing options for families with small children is a pressing demand

Set up an education fund

Interesting facts/ideas that came out of the meeting:

The Lamoine School has a current State evaluation of “measured improvement”

Birdsacre and Chewonki are coming to make presentations at the school

Students have written a play, with costumes and props for presentation after school November 19th.

Follow up: **Get a summary of the organizational changes over the last decade (Gordon Donaldson may have done this).**

Get current statistics and projections (for ten years) of student enrollment (from Dawn or Katrina).