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WORKING DEFINITION OF A QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

A system that provides students with the essential knowledge and skills necessary to function positively and productively in a democratic society and to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. This includes helping students obtain skills in critical thinking and reasoning, communication and social interaction, and problem solving in order to achieve their individual potential and to become lifelong learners.

PROGRAMS AND INPUTS

- Course offerings
- Graduation requirements
- Pupil teacher ratios
- Faculty salaries
- Per Pupil Costs

COMPARISON OF COURSE OFFERINGS

NEWMARKET DOVER EPPING

Program of Studies: Program of Studies: Program of Studies:

93 courses 180 courses 91 courses

5 AP courses 10 AP courses 6 AP courses

VLACS (online): VLACS (online) VLACS (online)

84 courses 84 courses

SST* Dover CTE* SST*

30 courses 70 courses 30 courses

<u>Virtual HS (online)</u>:

184 courses

There may be some confusion between "programs" and "courses" in these centers.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

NEWMARKET DOVER EPPING

28.5 credits 26 credits 22.5 credits

English 4.5 English 4 English 4

Math 4 Math 4 Math 3

Science 3 Science 3 Science 3

Social Studies 3 Social Studies 2.5 Social Studies 3

Electives 11 Electives 9.5 Electives 7

Others 3 Others 2.5

<u>Distinction Diploma Honors Diploma</u>

28 credits 25 credits

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO--- 2012-13

State 12.1

Dover 14.9

Epping 11.1

Exeter 13.9

Newmarket 10.8

Oyster River 11.9

Barrington 12.3

Nottingham 12.4

AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY--- 2013-14

Ave. Salary

State \$54,712

Dover 49,374

Epping 49,310

Exeter 67,990

Newmarket 44,399

Oyster River 64,866

Barrington 43,500

Nottingham 52,676

Range in New Hampshire \$30,550 to \$74,326

NEWMARKET'S POLICY DECISION: MORE TEACHERS, LOWER SALARIES (CONSCIOUS DECISION?)

- (1) If you divide student enrollment in Newmarket by the Newmarket student/teacher ratio, you have 88 teachers
- (2) If you divide student enrollment in Newmarket by the state average student/teacher ratio, you would have 78 teachers
- (3) State reports show that in grades 1-5, Newmarket's class size is just over the state average
- (4)Our conclusion is that the additional teachers are clustered at the Jr/Sr high school. This is critical for the discussion on tuition, and for facilities as well, as we shall see.
- (5) The point is NOT that Newmarket has too many teachers. Smaller schools have lower student/teacher ratios, particularly in high schools, and Newmarket also has very high graduation requirements. The point is that the current Newmarket high school staff can absorb an increase in students, which is very important.

COST PER PUPIL- 2012-13

```
Elementary Middle High
                         Total
State $13,627
               $12,991
                         $13,489
                                   $13,459
Dover 9,806 9,378 11,641
                              10,321
Epping 13,551
                14,314
                          14,701
                                    14,046
Exeter
          11,980
                    12,405
                              12,224
Newmarket
             14,079
                          17,547
                                    14,948
Oyster River
              17,079
                       15,831
                                 16,756
                                           16,553
Barrington 13,266 11,540
                             12.375
Nottingham
             12,124
                       12,124
```

NOTE: There are 14 districts in NH with high schools of under 300 students. Weighted Ave. Cost p/p for those high schools is \$17,561. Size of the schools ranges from 126 to 275.

DOES NOT INCLUDE PITTSBURG, WITH A HIGH SCHOOL POPULATION OF 38, AND A P/P COST OF \$25,245.

EQUALIZED VALUATION AND EQUALIZED SCHOOL TAX RATES- 2012-13

Eq. Val.	Eq. Tax Rate
----------	--------------

 State (median)
 \$783,141
 \$15.08

 Dover
 747,109
 12.13

 Epping
 610,312
 18.68

 Exeter
 739,242
 15.73

 Newmarket
 720,629
 17.64

 Overton Pivon
 804,544
 10.37

Oyster River 804,544 19.37

Barrington 618,111 16.52

Nottingham 757,588 16.67

LOOKING AT OUTPUTS

NECAP Assessment results:

Cut Scores

Percentages of Proficient +

Mean scaled scores

Dropout Rates

NECAP---- CUT SCORES FOR PERFORMANCE LEVELS--- FALL 2013

READING Math

Substantially Below Proficient 01-29 01-33

Partially Proficient 30-39 34-39

Proficient 40-53 40-51

Proficient with Distinction 54-80 52-80

NECAP RESULTS FOR SELECTED DISTRICTS--- GRADE 11-FALL 2013PROFICIENT AND ABOVE

```
% Prof+ % Prof + % Prof +
School Reading
               Math
                      Writing
STATE 77%
            36%
                  54%
Dover 72%
            30%
                  51%
Epping85%
           38%
                  64%
Exeter 89%
            55%
                  68%
Newmarket
                         76%
            88%
                  45%
Oyster River
            77%
                         61%
                  57%
```

NECAP RESULTS FOR SELECTED DISTRICTS--- FALL 2013 MEAN SCALED SCORES- GRADE 11

```
Reading
            Math
                  Writing
School MSS*
            MSS*
                   MSS*
State 1148
            1136
                 6.8
                 6.8
Dover 1147 1135
           1137 7.2
Epping 1151
Exeter 1154
           1140 7.4
Newmarket 1153 1139
                         7.7
Oyster River
               1148
                      1139
                            6.9
```

^{*}MSS= Mean Scaled Score "11" is simply grade level. Last two digits are the actual scaled score

DROPOUT RATES- 2012-13

	Annual	4 year cumulative
State	1.29%	5.06%
Dover	0.58	2.30
Epping	0.00	0.00
Exeter	0.34	1.35
Newmark	et 0.00	0.00
Ovster Riv	ver 0.00	0.00

ESTIMATED TUITION COSTS--NEWMARKET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS--- 2014-15 USING THE BARRINGTON CONTRACT FOR DOVER

Per pupil tuition cost--- \$12,013* X 244 students \$2,931,172

Administrative fee of 8% \$961 X 244 students 234,493

Total Tuition 3,165,665

Additional costs Busing 1/1 paraprofessionals

Between 2003-4 and 2012-13, high school per pupil costs increased by an average of 5.2%. However over the last two of those years, the increase moderated to 3.2%. We have applied a 3.2% increase to Dover's per pupil cost as an estimate 2013-14, the basis for the contract. We applied the same to the Sanborn/Fremont scenario.

ESTIMATED TUITION COSTS--NEWMARKET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS--- 2014-15

USING THE FREMONT CONTRACT WITH SANBORN

Per pupil tuition costs--- \$14,025 x 244 students \$3,422,322 Additional ½ SPED Tuition \$7,012.5 X 48 students 336,600

Total tuition 3,758,922

Busing

ESTIMATED TUITION COSTS--NEWMARKET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS--- 2014-15

USING BARRINGTON CONTRACT WITH OYSTER RIVER

Per pupil tuition costs \$13,000 x 244 students \$3,172,000

Additional \$7,000 per special education x 48 students 336,000

Total tuition \$3,508,000

Busing 160,000

Grand Total \$3,668,000

SO, WHAT'S THE TIPPING POINT FOR TUITION?

- (1) The current high school budget is \$3,821,567, and the current junior high budget is \$2,586,051. While we are working with Christine Blouin to hone the figures for the situation where high school students would be tuitioned elsewhere, and the cost for a stand alone junior high would be a bit higher, the high school budget number will be useful for comparison purposes.
- (2) Given the current staffing in the high school, it is probable that no additional staff would be required for up to 300 or so high school students.
- (3) Tuition costs, however, are based on actual numbers of students. The base tuition cost for 300 students would be \$3,892,212 in the Barrington/Dover scenario; \$4,313,000 in the Barrington/Oyster River scenario; and \$4,620,875 in the Sanborn/Fremont scenario. Not including busing.
- (4) Looking at enrollment projections is critical. IF the high school population declines further, then the tuition option becomes more financially attractive, and IF high school populations begin to increase, it becomes less financially attractive.

THEN... WHAT ARE ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS?

- (1) Enrollments declined over the past several years, reaching a low in 2013-14 of 978 overall, (grades 1-12) and 238 in the high school. This year saw a slight rebound in total enrollment to 1,011 (3.3%), and high school enrollment to 244.
- (2) Current enrollment numbers throughout the district point to a high school enrollment of 250-275 for a number of years, and then an increase to over 300, returning to levels in the early 2000's. The current enrollment of Grades 1-4 is 372, and even accounting for some drop off as students enter the high school, the overall enrollment points to a moderate increase in high school students over the next 5-10 years, even if elementary enrollment does not increase over that time.
- (3) It is doubtful that high school enrollments will exceed 350 for any foreseeable future. Total jr/sr enrollments should not exceed 550 for years to come.
- (4) These projections are equally critical in examining building options, as we shall see.

LET'S LOOK AT FACILITIES

- (1) Few people question the need to improve the facilities
- (2) NEASC* Accreditation Report cites "the failure of the school site and facilities to sufficiently support the delivery of the curriculum" as one of its major findings
- (3) Fire and life safety issues in the jr/sr high school have been addressed
- (4) A comprehensive plan for K-12 facilities has been suggested
- (5) The size and cost of various facilities options have been the subject of intense debate
- (6) Affordability and sustainability have been raised as major concerns

* NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges)

THREE FACTORS TO EXAMINE WITH FACILITIES

- (1) Quality
- (2)Size
- (3)Cost

Two of these factors can be determined, but whatever two are chosen will dictate the third.

For Newmarket the questions seem to be: What size facility do we need; What cost can be borne by the community; and Will the resulting quality of the facility provide the educational program our students need?

SO, LET'S LOOK AT SIZE AND COST

- If we use 550 students as the target number, then we can apply state standards to that number
- State standards call for a utilization factor of 85%, and a square foot per student allowance of 160.
- If we apply those standards, then the equation would be 550/.85 x 160 and the resulting size of the building would be 103,529 square feet.
- Applying a square foot cost for new construction is not easy to compute. The last State Allowable Cost was \$195/square foot in 2010. We are now using \$235/square foot for illustrative purposes. This is an estimate, but a reasonable one.
- The cost for such a new facility then, would be \$24,329,315.
- At \$195/square foot (a number used in Pennsylvania), the cost would be \$20,188,155.

RENOVATE OR BUILD NEW?

- The current facility has approximately 84,000 square feet, so renovations would need to include an addition of approximately 20,000 square feet, to meet the established standard. An addition would cost between \$3.9 million and \$4.7 million, depending on the square foot cost applied.
- USUALLY, the cost of renovation is less than the cost of new facilities, but it is more complicated in this case. The current facility is a conglomeration of four buildings constructed over the years 1925 to 1987. This makes it more difficult to bring the buildings together in a coherent whole, and a new addition would be a fifth building.
- The primary issue appears to be bringing the buildings up to new seismic codes, at a very high projected cost. Earlier architectural firms have concluded that it would cost as much to renovate as it would cost to build new. We are seeking a second opinion on that conclusion.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF A BOND ISSUE ON THE TAX RATE?

- The current valuation of property in Newmarket is \$711,970,612. This means that every \$711,970 in expenses costs \$1 on the tax rate.
- The current total school tax rate is \$18.43, and the total tax rate for Newmarket is \$25.75.
- In the first full year of a traditional bond, at 30 years and 4% interest, the cost for each 1 million dollars is \$73,333. Thus, a \$10.5 million bond would add \$1 to the tax rate. At 3% interest, a \$12.5 million bond would add \$1 to the tax rate.
- The impact of a traditional bond would decline, as the interest cost would be reduced, in each year after the first full year.
- Bond issue scenarios will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

WRAPPING IT UP FOR TONIGHT

- (1) By the next meeting, we will have projections of enrollments, tuition costs, and operational costs for the next ten years. Tuition projections will be based on the three contracts we have now, understanding that a final contract would have to be negotiated if this option is selected.
- (2) We will have good numbers for new construction, understanding that it will require architects and construction companies to come to complete numbers. However, we anticipate that the parameters we provide will serve the community well when it comes to working with architects.
- (3) We will have a better handle on the issues involved with renovations. The School Board has authorized the hiring of a structural engineer, and we will be meeting with him in the very near future. We will also have a firmer handle on what is required to meet seismic codes in older buildings.