

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. She stated that Dr. Mark Joyce is here to give a brief overview of his report and then the board will ask questions and then we will open it up to public comment.
2. **Presentation by Dr. Mark Joyce:** Mark Joyce stated that they replied to an RFP and the scope was defined with three elements:
 1. Assess the demographic profile of the community and project future enrollments
 2. Facility assessment of this building and measure the educational capabilities and make a recommendation
 3. Assess interest of Marshwood for tutoring the students at the elementary level with a general overview of the offerings and where the schools will be.

Table 1

Year	School Enrollment	Town Population	Student Enrollment (K –12) as a % of Town Population
2006	331	2,635	12.56%
2007	326	2,647	12.32%
2008	343	2,651	12.94%
2009	343	2,644	12.97%
2010	315	2,527	12.45%
2011	326	2,531	12.88%
2012	322	2,525	12.75%
2013	299	2,523	11.85%

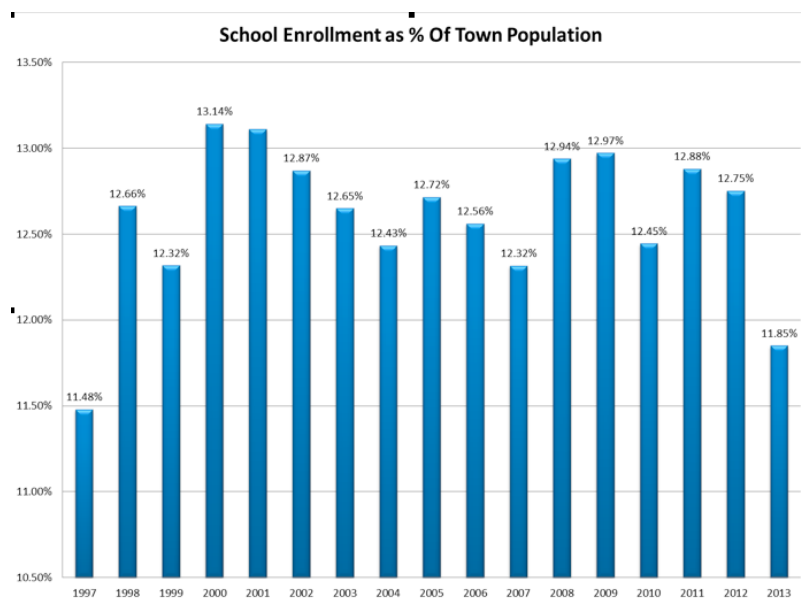


Table one is a comparison of Town population change in relation to the school population. He stated that this assessed the growth of young children versus the overall community profile. He stated that it is not uncommon to see growth in the town and not growth in the school population. He stated that there is a general aging in NH on average and that is true in most communities. He stated that the graph shows the percentage of school population as a percentage of town population. He stated that the most recent data is for 2013 which is 11.85%. He stated that they don't have the census certified yet for 2014.

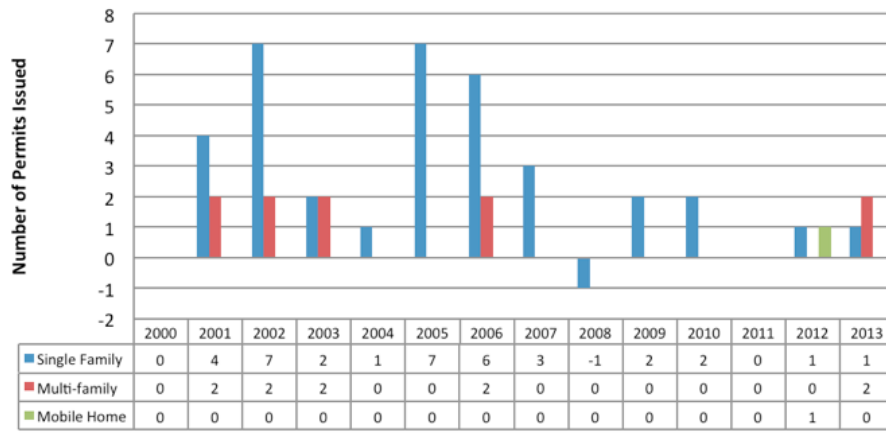
Table 2

Year	Births (Bureau of Vital Records)	Town Population	Births as a % of District Population
2002	34	2,665	1.28%
2003	39	2,664	1.46%
2004	23	2,638	0.87%
2005	28	2,611	1.07%
2006	32	2,635	1.21%
2007	17	2,647	0.64%
2008	29	2,651	1.09%
2009	32	2,644	1.21%
2010	28	2,527	1.11%
2011	27	2,531	1.07%
2012	27	2,525	1.06%

Table two is native population and births from 2002-2012. He stated that for the last ten years the K-12 population has been declining and the birth rates have also been declining. He stated that over the last five years there has been a decline in population but that is not true in every community. Newmarket, Epping and Nottingham have all shown growth. They have vast underdeveloped land and now they are being developed with affordable housing.

Building Permits

Building Permits



He stated that another indicator of student growth is the number of building permits issued. This table shows the number of building permits issued over the last 14 years. He stated that the fact that the school population and overall town population has declined over the past few years while building permits have remained consistent would seem to indicate a fairly stable and turnover of property within the town during a slow growing economic period. From discussions with the Town Planning Office, it would appear that there are no significant new large residential developments in the planning stage and future changes appear to be modest and stable.

Projected Enrollments

School Year	Grades K – 12	Difference from Previous Year	Percent Change
2015-2016	271	8	3.04%
2016-2017	259	-12	-4.43%
2017-2018	259	0	0.00%
2018-2019	259	0	0.00%
2019-2020	253	-6	-2.32%
2020-2021	257	4	1.58%
2021-2022	258	1	0.39%
2022-2023	258	0	0.00%
2023-2024	260	2	0.78%
2024-2025	260	0	0.00%

He stated that there are three different methods to determine future enrollments. 1. One year average, 2. Three year weighted average and 3. Five year average. He stated that they take the most aggressive of these which is the five year average which picks up the most recent influx of students. It shows a steady enrollment with a slight decline.

Program at RGS

He stated that Rollinsford Grade School is a wonderful school with a fully comprehensive approved program. He stated that below is a profile of the functional education capacity which assesses the space and how many kids can fit in the space and how many with the highest guidelines. He stated that the enrollment on October 1st was 146 students and the functional educational capacity according to local guidelines is 142 so the building is full. He stated that the state allows for a higher student count for grades K-2 of up to 25 students and grades 3-12 up to 30 students. He stated some of the old classrooms don't meet the 900 square feet guidelines.

School	2015 Enrollment	Functional Educational Capacity	Difference
Rollinsford Grade School	146	142	-4

TABLE 8
Summary of K – 6 Functional Educational Capacity using NH guidelines in Relation to 2015 Enrollment

School	2015 Enrollment	Functional Educational Capacity	Difference
Rollinsford Grade School	146	178	+32

Summary

- If the district keeps its class size goals in place, Rollinsford Grade School is virtually at or slightly exceeding the Functional Educational Capacity at the current time.
- There exist some structural and infrastructural needs in order to have the building brought up to code and improve its efficiency. The costs of repairs are estimated to be about 2 million dollars as determined by the IBEA study dated July 24, 2013.

Alternative Suggestions

- **Alternative 1:**
- Reaffirm Rollinsford's class size goals, school program, perform structural and infrastructure repairs and continue current school uses.

Alternative 1 has 2 elements:

- Reaffirm Rollinsford class size goals and grade configuration
- Develop and implement a long term plan to improve infrastructure issues

Advantages (+)	Disadvantages (-)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains lower class sizes in all grade levels • Maintains a school as a community resource • Retains flexibility to meet unexpected enrollment growth • Keep multi-age grouping throughout the elementary school • Maintains close access to the school from students homes • Maintains local governance of the K-6 school by citizens through school board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost is estimated to be 2 million dollars in capital expense to implement needed repairs • Continue annual per pupil cost (most recently reported to be \$18,373.06 in 2013-14) • Continued need to plan for a transition of students programming from grade 6 in Rollinsford to grade 7 in the Marshwood system

Note: This alternative does not correct some of the additional space needs for the Rollinsford Grade School like the need for a cafeteria, music room or improved kitchen space.

- **Alternative 2:**
- Close the Rollinsford Grade School and tuition K-6 grade students to the Marshwood School District under a long-term agreement

Alternative 2 has 2 elements:

- Negotiate long-term contract with Marshwood School District
- Plan for the closure or reuse of the existing Rollinsford Grade School as a community resource

Advantages (+)	Disadvantages (-)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoids the capital investment in implementing repairs estimated to be 2 million dollars • Provides a lower annual tuition cost than current cost per pupil (Rollinsford \$18,373.06 in 2013-14 vs. current 7-12 rate at Marshwood of \$ 9,650) • Allows for the transition of students from grade to grade in a coordinated K-12 program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes the reallocation of students to a new elementary school • Loss of total control of K-6 educational program by locally elected school board and citizen annual meeting • Loss of community school and possibility of closing the facility if not sustained as a community resource. • Potential increase in transportation costs • Loss of convenience for parent and community involvement in K-6 students' school

- **Alternative 3:**
- Reconfigure Rollinsford Grade School to a K-3 school and tuition 4-6 grade students to Marshwood School District under a long-term agreement

Alternative 3 has 3 elements:

- Negotiate long-term agreement with Marshwood School District
- Plan for the reconfiguration of Rollinsford Grade School
- Determine the feasibility of portions of facility being available for community and cost sharing in the improvement of infrastructure issues

Advantages (+)	Disadvantages (-)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains early childhood (K-3) schooling in community with lower class sizes in all grade levels • Maintains a school as a community resource • Retains flexibility to meet unexpected enrollment growth • Keeps multi-age grouping through grade 3 • Maintains close access to the school from K-3 students' homes • Maintains local governance of the Pre- K-3 school by citizens through the elected school board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital expense to implement needed repairs and reconfiguration of school for potential shared use with the community • Likely increase in cost per student in staffing K-3 school for approx. 100 students • Continue annual per pupil cost for grades K-3 (most recently reported to be \$18,373.06 in 2013-14) • Continued need to plan for a transition of students programming from grade 3 in Rollinsford to grade 4 in the Marshwood system

3. **Board Questions:** Nelson stated that on the May 7th minutes it mentions where you talked about how it is difficult to compare cost formulas but you did compare the cost and asked if he could talk more about what is included. Joyce stated that the cost per pupil in NH is a formula where they deduct expenditures such as debt service, food service, and tuition and then calculates a rough estimate of cost per pupil. In a tuition agreement the amount of money is based on a negotiation and it may be based on operational costs and what you are willing to pay. He stated that he is not familiar with the minutes; our report comes from the scope in the RFP. Anderson stated that the local guidelines of 15 students, is that determined within the school. Joyce stated that it was from meeting with administration and staff here. That is in your control but the ultimate approval resides in the space of the class which is 900 square feet or 36 square feet per student. Nelson stated that she had hoped for a comparison with the school programs and there wasn't a lot on that. Can you talk about what you observed here versus Marshwood in regards to 21st century learning? Joyce stated that in our scope it outlined that we would do a tour of the school and a summary of the program. He stated that they toured Eliot, Great Works School and the middle school. He stated that they toured it when it was operational and empty. As he said both schools are wonderful and have progressive learning and programs. He stated that it is not a question of moving away due to the curriculum at RGS. There is a great curriculum here and Marshwood also had a great curriculum. He stated that he would like to note that a surprising fact occurred when they came at the opening of school they noticed an October 1 enrollment increase in the secondary students. Students who were attending private schools decided to attend Marshwood so that was significant at two grade levels. Nelson stated that the board anticipated a greater secondary enrollment because we tended to lose students going to Somersworth. Joyce stated that it is not unique to Rollinsford going to Somersworth. You have the largest catholic high school close to your community which draws students from Rye and Greenland as well. Nelson stated that in the May minutes you

referenced a 54 point scope and we didn't see that in this report. Joyce stated that was from our last study that was not included in our scope for this study. If you can point out in our scope of service they would be happy to correct that. Kunz stated that on page 28 in regards to the Eliot school it mentioned that they have a cap but that they can handle the Rollinsford students and still maintain a class size of 14-18 in grade pre k-1 and less than 22 in grades 2-3. What is the current population in those grades? Joyce stated that Eliot pre k-1 is 14-18, grades 2-5 in Eliot and Great Works is 18-22 and grade 6-on is 18-25. He stated that they can assume the enrollment and still maintain those class sizes. He stated that it would not be all Rollinsford kids in one class they would be mixed. He stated that some of their classes were being used now for study groups. Kunz stated that right now they don't have staffing for those rooms. Joyce stated no, it would be part of the cost just as it would be for grades 7-12. Kunz asked if he could talk about the buildings themselves and any concerns he had or what was good and any projects they might be undertaking. Joyce stated that they have ongoing improvement plans, all schools were very friendly just like your school, very accommodating and pleasant and their buildings were clean and well maintained. Kunz in regards to transportation, what is the length of time the kids would be on the bus. Joyce stated that the only way to estimate that is that they used MapQuest and it is 10.2 miles from this building to that building. He stated the problem with that is that not all children live around here; they may live closer or farther away. He stated that the mileage to Great Works is 2 miles and the middle school is 7.75 miles which is an estimated 12 minutes. He stated that it is hard to estimate until you map out where the kids live. Kunz stated that you referenced building permits and asked if anything was considered for any actual property sales. Joyce stated that there is no information that shows that accurately this is based on estimates rather than known and we contact local offices.

4. **Public Comment:** Danielle Phipps stated that you mentioned that the Superintendent of Marshwood is willing to take the kids but has the community been asked. Joyce stated that to his knowledge no but the school board and the Superintendent have discussed it. Paul Cassault stated that the difference in tuition student cost between Marshwood and Rollinsford Grade School is roughly \$8,000. He stated that even with the special education costs if we can save \$2,000 a student we can pay for the \$2 million renovations on the school in ten years. Joyce stated that this is a great school system and the K-6 costs are due to the scale of size and it is divided by a smaller number of students. He stated that in Marshwood the Eliot school has 300 students in just that school which is more than you have K-12. He stated that it is not just about money it is about control and when you rent you negotiate an agreement. He stated that it is not easy to compare due to the scale being the biggest difference. Paul Cassault stated that what if we make the class size the same. Joyce stated that the cost is divided by the number of students. Kim St. Hilaire asked what percentage of the student population live in a two mile radius. Joyce stated that the office may be able to identify that. We don't know who the kids are; we just know address and grade. He stated that this information is helpful in identifying transportation routes for districts. Kim St. Hilaire stated that this is really important information of determining the impact of the commute to Eliot. Dianne Smaracko stated that she has two kids in grades 7 and 8 and they get picked up for the bus at 6:30 and their bus ride is 45 minutes due to going to Marshwood Middle School and Eliot Elementary is even further so that would be

a long commute. Wanda Gagnon stated that 45 minutes to an hour ride is too much for Kindergarten kids, she can't see that. Celia Leopold stated that the study does not include houses currently in development. Joyce stated that if they pulled building permits they would be included. Tracey Laurion stated that if Kindergarten transportation is 45 minutes we have to remember that this is for a half day program and then you have to drive 45 minutes to an hour on the way home and for a 2 ½ hour program that would be a long day. Jan Janetos asked if you use the school as a K-3 school what square footage they fall into. Nelson stated that K-2 in the annex have accommodations. She stated that there are many options that could be considered. Jan Janetos stated that the number of teachers would also go down. Nelson stated that the administration has worked hard on the savings for the coming budget so the town can see what they are doing. Jan Janetos stated that it would still be two million to repair the building. Nelson stated that the \$9000 tuition for Marshwood does not include special education. Jan Janetos asked if the two million is a twenty year bond. Nelson stated that we are looking at ways to chip away at what needs to be done. Leach asked if the fifteen students per class was based on observation or was it a stated guideline. Joyce stated that it was our impression of what is happening presently. Robinson stated that if we reduce one classroom and reduce a teacher the population is small so the class size will jump up. He stated that he would suggest that people join the budget workshops and the budget presentation to see what we are doing with class size and the school; he doesn't want to get hung up on 15 students per class. Kim St. Hilaire stated that there has been a decision in South Berwick on redistricting and asked if anyone has broached that subject with them. Joyce stated that was not mentioned. Nelson stated that at our May meeting you stated that one of things that we need to be aware of is that as renters we have no control and can you elaborate on how one district the cost was astronomical. Joyce stated that Barnstead chose to have choice and send their students to a variety of schools and had an open contract and had eight or nine students that nobody would take but they were still left with the legal obligation to educate so the commissioner had to broker a deal and they had to pay a very high amount for tuition. Brian Pelleren stated that even if you take the special education costs out of the \$18,000 you still get a per pupil cost of around \$14,000 per student and if you compare that to the \$9500 you are still looking at a per pupil cost of \$5,000 more per student and we need to recognize that. Tracey Laurion stated that they haven't received a bill yet for special education for Marshwood and we have no control over the paraprofessionals that they hire. Nelson stated that we have oversight and all the students who attend an out of state school have to be overseen by our Superintendent and special education director and by a designated special education teacher in this school. Tracey Laurion stated that for the next three years we don't have any idea what the actual cost of 7-12 will be. Nelson stated that we are in the beginning of a three year transition and we have zero experience with cost. Tracey Laurion stated that to try to compare right now you can't because we are up in the air and she sees it changing as we transition. Kim St. Hilaire stated that in the first study teacher attainment and performance data was included in the study and she feels that it is important information that wasn't provided. Joyce stated that student performance is difficult to measure for different states because they don't use the same test but it would be nice if every state took the state test. Maine just stopped using the smarter balance test which

is what we switched to in NH. He stated that they could get the data on teacher attainment but performance measures are difficult because the data is different tests. Brian Pelleren stated that for the special education kids currently in Marshwood are the receiving services required by the NH DOE. Nelson stated yes. Brian Pelleren stated that the difference is the cost. Nelson stated that Somersworth charges us a tiered approach for special education and in Marshwood we are paying by the hour by the service off of an a la carte menu. Menard stated that Eliot passed a bill in the spring looking at full day kindergarten. Becky Wright stated that they didn't pass that, the board has discussed it but nothing has been done. Julie Person stated that last night they talked about the Maine State law that Pre-K can't exceed 16 per class and they did speak about the feasibility for full day kindergarten with the hope of having it next year. Nelson stated that Marshwood does have their meetings live streamed if anyone is interested in watching them. Robinson stated that in regards to the \$9,000 for Marshwood tuition and the \$18,000 cost per pupil, there is no question that the first few years we will save a few thousand per student, there is no question about that. He stated that there is no question that this school needs maintenance. He stated that this study was the start of what we need to look at, we have started the process and we hope the town and the community as a whole will continue to investigate and look at all things and not make rash decisions, this decision needs to be evaluated. He stated that specifically on the \$18,000 per student join our board meetings and budget meetings and the way we are presenting our financials breaks out RGS costs, Middle School Costs and High School costs which also include SAU costs and transportation. He stated that you can make the number be anything you want it to be but at the end of the day the town has to pay for what it costs to educate students. He stated that we need to look at other things the report says; this is a great way to start the conversation. He asked that we continue the conversation and not make rash decisions. Susan Janetos stated that it is sad to see the figures of where the students are and see the enrollment go down, she doesn't see an abundance of kids here. She stated that on one page it says it could go down to 109 students and how much can you put into a school. Joyce stated that you are referring to a projection but our recommendation is the highest one not the lowest one. He stated that they show a slow decline but no drastic declines in enrollment. Kunz stated that from 2005-2015 there is a total K-12 population reduction of 69 students which is 5.3 per grade over ten years that is not a dramatic decline. Susan Janetos asked about the births and why they only go to 2012. Joyce stated that it takes two years to certify the birth of children in NH due to children born out of state so they don't certify them as legal until two years later. Nelson stated that we as a board don't want to rush, we want to gather information and we are also looking at reducing costs and also ways to increase revenue here at this school. Kunz stated that he has concerns with the length of time on a bus. Nobody is on a bus for fifteen minutes so there is no way to get there in 30 minutes no including stops. He stated that is not something you can measure money wise. He stated that we all feel important to have some say and we also need to consider if we are sending all our kids to a different state we don't sit on any boards there. Anderson asked if other communities have seen any programs the school can offer to help benefit the schools. Joyce stated that enrollment around the state is declining and many schools have open space and they are utilizing it for early childhood care and also opening during non-school times and use the

library during off hours so there are a variety of things districts are doing. They are also doing adult Ed and enrichment courses. Leach stated that they are at the beginning of the process and there are so many very large question marks and she hopes that people will take their time and do their own research and they are working hard to reduce costs here. She stated that the programs here are fantastic and innovative and we need to put in the hard work to keep this going and she hopes that everyone here gives us the opportunity to do that. Robinson thanked Mark for the answers to their questions. Ceceila Esposito asked if the busing situation has been looked into and asked if they should be considering additional buses because one hour and fifteen minutes is crazy and unacceptable. Nelson stated that they have had some hiccups and they continue to stay on top of it. Supt. Mosca stated that we can't control traffic on 236 but if every child was out at the bus stop on time it would help but if not the minutes add up. Kim St. Hilaire asked what the total cost to run this school is including transportation. Robinson stated that we provide that at each meeting in the financial report but it is ball park 3.5 million.

5. Adjournment: The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval