

Hi Folks,

Last Wednesday, Jan. 16th, we had our latest CMS Renewal Committee meeting. The committee members in attendance: Lucy Cushman- Stratham and co-chair, Bill Perkins- Exeter, CMS Asst. Principal and co-chair, Leslie Steinhauser- Newfields, Rob Delorie- Exeter, Melissa Litchfield- Brentwood and ERCSB rep., Letty Bedard- Brentwood, Rachel Jefferson- Stratham, Louri Hannan- Brentwood, Bob Hall- Kensington and ERCSB rep., Jessica House- Newfields, Patty Wons- Stratham and CMS Principal.

Also in attendance: David Ryan- Supt. SAU 16, Helen Joyce- ERCSB, Jessica Sacco- Guilfoil Communications, and Rich Carroll- Geskus Studios and Stratham resident.

- The evening started with a recap of the ERCSB Bond Hearing on Jan. 8th. Patty, Lucy and I gave a short presentation about the proposal that seemed to be well received. Frank Markiewicz, SAU 16 Business Mgr. followed up our presentation with a well explained financial breakdown of each town's tax impact and how it was derived. Frank has posted his presentation on the SAU website and the CMS website.
- The Renewal Committee has been invited by Sally Hollaman to give a proposal presentation to the residents of Riverwoods on Feb. 21st. We will be speaking during their Tea in the Afternoon series. Thanks to Rob Delorie for his diligent work in acquiring presentation opportunities.
- A short discussion about the Feb. 7th Deliberative Session. Patty, Lucy and I will give a very similar presentation to the one we gave at the Bond Hearing. The committee was encouraged to attend. Dr. Ryan did mention that there is a lingering question on whether or not a bond number could be adjusted at the Deliberative Session. Legal counsel is looking into it.
- Rich Carroll of Geskus Studios and Jessica Sacco of Guilfoil Communications and were introduced. Rich is a Stratham resident and has children in the SAU. He wanted to come and learn how he could lend his support to the committee. Jessica works for Guilfoil Communications and was asked to join us so the committee could learn how Guilfoil can help us get our message out.
- Dr. Ryan explained that Guilfoil Communications has created a "Spotlight Series" of press releases based on the work of the committee members. Each week, the spotlight will be shown on one aspect of the proposal. The first article will be about the need for an additional 10 classrooms (2 pods.) The discussion segued into the website that Guilfoil has been helping the committee upgrade and update. Dr. Ryan let us know that the website was very close to being released for public consumption. The website is being reviewed by legal counsel to make sure it does not violate "electioneering" laws. (Update: Since the meeting, the website has been cleared, with one small revision, and will be available this week.) Also, Jessica Sacco and Rachel spoke to one another about our social media presence. Our updated presence (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) will also soon be available for the public.

- For the rest of the meeting, we went through almost all of our website. There were a lot of changes suggested (which have been made) by committee members. Jessica S. took copious notes to bring back to Guilfoil.
- Rich Carroll offered some insightful ideas as well as some free printing for our flyers and presentation banners.

If anyone knows of a group, organization, etc. that would like a presentation or CMS tour, please contact me.

Take care,
Bill