

# **Town Council/School Board Joint Meeting**

## **Minutes**

### **March 5, 2018**

Councilors in attendance – Councilor Hemphill, Kitchel, Ferrante, King, and Farber

Also attending – Nathan Poore, School administrators, School Board and members of the public

The School Board Chair, Danielle Tracy, opened the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Chair Tracy introduced Rebecca Wandell, the consultant who has recently completed an enrollment study for the School Department.

Ms. Wendall offered a PowerPoint presentation that described several scenarios for school enrollment projections. She developed models based on current housing trends and scenarios with a higher amount of new home starts. The models that looked at higher new home starts took into consideration anticipated education system impact from a development like the proposed Homestead Acres project.

She explained how a recent higher birth rate will create some capacity challenges for the elementary school with or without a Homestead Acres like project. Adding a Homestead Acres like project will increase those challenges. She explained that there are less concerns for capacity at the high school and middle school.

Chair Tracy invited members of the public to offer input or ask questions. Several members of the public spoke, mostly with concern about how the proposed Homestead Acres project would impact facility capacity.

John Winslow spoke of increased enrollment in Gorham, Cumberland and Scarborough. He stated that all three towns have done what Falmouth is proposing and that the outcome was not favorable. He also stated that adoption rates are high in Falmouth.

John Kelly spoke about growth caps.

Amy Robidas asked about earlier enrollment studies. Dan O'Shea, Director of Finance and Operations, said they had been performed. Mr. O'Shea described the bubble classes and elementary school capacity at 930 students. He also stated that the new elementary school likely attracted new families to Falmouth.

There were no questions or comments raised by Councilors or School Board members

Councilor Farber moved that the meeting adjourn at 6:45; Councilor King seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes recorded by,

Nathan Poore  
Town Manager