

School Consolidation Committee Meeting Notes
Holden School Tour
March 8, 2025, 10:00am

Committee Members present: Committee Chair, Heather Grass, Board Chair, Linda Graban and Derek Robertson

Others in attendance: School Board member Cherie Faulkner, Superintendent Jared Fulgoni, Facilities and Maintenance Manager Ryan Porter, Principal Timothy Baker, Eddington Town Manager, Shawna Hinkley, Holden Town Manager, Ben Breadmore, Carpenter Associates Engineer, Jeff Thurlow, and citizens and parents from Clifton Eddington and Holden.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am

Introductions were made and a brief explanation of the purpose of the Committee by RSU 63 Superintendent Jared Fulgoni. A review of Agenda items was discussed. There was an open public discussion for people to ask questions before we went on a tour of the outside and inside of the facility.

Items discussed were the gym/cafeteria floor being better than Eddington School, the safety proximity of the school to the police and fire department, the larger amount of parking spaces compared to Eddington School, the location of the facility on a very busy road and how dangerous pick up time is for vehicles pulling in and trying to pull out into traffic and the amount of traffic accidents from the DOT website that was included in the packet, the square footage of Holden School is approximately 2500 sf larger than Eddington, the resale value of Holden is greater than Eddington, the age of the buildings are only a year different and the lot size the facilities sit on is similar, however the adjoining land behind is owned by the town according to Mr. Breadmore. The tax map shows a small strip of land owned by the town and a privately owned lot behind. Mr Breadmore stated the town tax map was incorrect. It was discussed that this would come into play if the need to expand was an option in the future, however it was stated that the goal was to have Pre-K - grade 8 all in the same building, preferably at Holbrook. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of closing both Eddington and Holden School now and having Pre-K - 8 at Holbrook and eliminating doing this whole process again in a few years. The committee will look into the feasibility of that proposal as well as only closing Eddington or Holden.

Ryan Porter led the group in a walk around the outside of the school, including the boiler and grounds. It was noted that the boiler room had just recently flooded because of the rain and showed photos of the water. The tour went around the outside of the building. It was noted the roof was fairly new for the most part, although there was some leakage in the library area, the septic area where a tree had grown into the septic pipe last year was fixed as well as the amount of parking areas, baseball field, playground and proximity of the fire station was noted. A below level area with outside access which was located below the kitchen/gym area. It was observed and noted that had also just recently flooded. Holden school is equipped with a generator for power outages.

The group also toured all the rooms inside the school. It was noted that most of the classroom had bathrooms but not all, HVAC upgrades were recently completed throughout the whole building. Also noted was a large crack in the cement blocks in the inside hallway in the older section of the building, however it was also noted that it was cement blocks as opposed to Eddington which was a wood structure. Also noted was two plug- in carbon monoxide detectors in an outlet halfway up the wall in 2 separate locations. The newer constructed addition had 3 very nice rooms and a bathroom.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 5:30 pm at Holbrook School to tour the building and grounds, discuss cost of maintaining each school now and potential savings of individual schools if closed, potential maintenance and repairs needed for each school, safety and bussing.

Adjournment: 11:43am

APPROVED: MARCH 31, 2025