

School Consolidation Committee Meeting Notes
Holbrook School
April 1, 2025, 5:30pm

Meeting was called to order at 5:29 pm

Committee Members present: Committee Chair, Heather Grass, Board Chair, Linda Graban

Committee Members Absent: Derek Robertson

Others in attendance: School Board members Cherie Faulkner, Brittney Wood, Amy Hart, Heather Lander, Rachel Downs, Superintendent Jared Fulgoni, Facilities/Maintenance Manager Ryan Porter, Transportation Director, Zach Chenier, Principal Timothy Baker, several members of town selectboards and citizens of the towns of Clifton, Eddington and Holden

Introductions were made and a brief explanation of the purpose of the committee by Jared Fulgoni.

AGENDA ITEMS

2. School Safety and emergency response time

Holden Police Chief, Eduardo Benjamin explained there were 3 officers on duty during the day and discussed the proximity of the station to Holden School, which was approximately 600 feet. The response time for an emergency at Holden School was 1 – 2 minutes as they are right next door. The response time for Holbrook School, which is a distance of 3.2 miles, would be 3 – 5 minutes. Penobscot Sheriff's office was not able to attend, but Chief Benjamin stated there is 1 officer on duty in Eddington and 1 on duty in Clifton.

Questions asked:

Would they go to Eddington School if there was an extreme emergency? And if so, what would that response time be and would it be even quicker with the new road? The answer was, yes, with an extreme emergency they would absolutely respond. The response time would be 10 minutes. The response time would be quicker when the new road is completed.

The Committee also requested Eddington/Holden Fire Chief, Ryan Davis give a presentation of school safety and response time for the Fire Department. The fire department was able to do a brief safety review of the schools beforehand for the committee, as asked. The committee also requested what the fire departments response time would be from each school from each of the stations. Chief Davis stated there were 2 firefighters at both the Eddington station and Holden station during the day. The response time to Eddington School is approximately 4 minutes. He said anything under 6 minutes is impressive. The response time to Holden would be 2 minutes. The response time from Holden to Holbrook would be 6 minutes and from Eddington to Holbrook would be approximately 10 minutes. Chief Davis said 395 will be a big help getting to the schools even quicker.

Chief Davis also gave a few points regarding safety points at each school:

HOLDEN SCHOOL: There is a 22,000 gallon water tank @ Holden Fire station (there is no Hydrant), There is a full fire alarm system, smoke detectors in the hallway only, CO2 detectors are battery, not hardwired. There is not access all the way around the school for the fire trucks, there is a sprinkler in the gym only (500 – 600 gallon water tank in the basement), windows are in good shape, the boiler system is in the courtyard and is not easily accessible, as it is surrounded by building. They would have to get access through the building to get to the boiler. Route 1A is a very busy road ("that is all I am going to say about that"), Holden School does have a generator, The campground next door would make it difficult to access the property during an emergency
EDDINGTON SCHOOL: Has a fire hydrant right out front (city water), no CO2 detectors, no fire detectors in the classroom wing, sprinkler in the gym which goes out to the hallway by gym to the gym entrance doors, property has level ground and is easily accessible all the way around

for fire trucks. Eddington school has only a small generator for the boiler room. The school has city water so water will work if power is out.

HOLBROOK SCHOOL: Multi levels building, hard to access, pick up and drop off is not safe, has generator

3. Operational costs of Holden Elementary and Eddington Elementary

Review of the operational costs for Eddington and Holden sheet included in the packet. Mr. Fulgoni noted they are very similar.

4. Estimated repair costs for each building

Mr. Fulgoni noted that the costs listed on the sheets in the packet were from several years ago and Carpenter Associates advised that estimates should be at a bare minimum doubled to reflect 2025 prices.

5. Transfinder bus routes

Review of the trip analysis in the packet. In comparing the two school, the bus ride to the Holden School would be shorter by a half an hour than the bus ride to the Eddington School.

Questions asked:

Does this reflect the new road being completed.

Answer – no it doesn't as the computer does not recognize the road in the program yet.

This is without an extra bus being utilized.

This is programed with all the students still going to Holbrook first, switching busses at Holbrook, then going to either Eddington or Holden.

6. Potential Board Vote Date

The committee discussed that they will have a workshop with the whole board attending to review, discuss and ask questions. This will be a workshop for the board so there will not be public comment at the workshop. After the workshop date, there will be a Public Forum for the public to ask questions from the committee and discuss concerns. That date will be announced at the workshop and posted. The Committee will then make a recommendation to the board on what the next step should be after they have the Public Forum.

7. Next Meeting Date: The **workshop** date was set for Monday April 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm

8. Adjournment - 6:50 pm

The group was given the opportunity to tour all the rooms inside Holbrook School.

APPROVED: APRIL 28, 2025