

Thornton School Board
Public Information Meeting
September 22, 2009

Mr. Scot Woolfenden opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed all and then introduced the Board members, SAU 48 Assistant Superintendent Kathy Boyle, Principal Jonathan Bownes, and Board secretary Carol Tyler. There were approximately 100 townspeople in attendance.

Melinda Johnston gave a presentation on the status of the current building and a brief history of the building project; stating safety, new entry, traffic flow, the need to add a computer lab, music room, art room, and have enough classrooms within the building to house all grades (and not have the modular), and State mandates as the driving force behind the building project.

Scot Woolfenden stated the Board is well aware of the financial situation within the country, state and town. He also stated the School Board's job is to provide an adequate education for the children in Thornton and that the purpose of this meeting is to get feedback on how the townspeople would like the Board to proceed.

It was noted that the town qualifies for 30% building aid from the State.

Input from the audience included:

- Having a more current demographic study
- Getting prices on installing video and key system for main entrance
- Restructure taxes to an income based structure
- Having a price on the current building proposal plan
- Use local contractors
- Start a Citizens' Advisory Board
- Some families are on fixed incomes and cannot afford higher taxes
- Cover/enclose the walkway from the modular to the building
- Concern about safety with children moving from modular to main building.

A question was raised about what would happen if the school did not meet the required minimum standards. The town would be given a period of time (years) to meet those standards. The school could be closed if standards are not met. The State has recommended a building project take place.

When asked how many did not want the Board to do anything only a few hands were raised.

A Citizen's Advisory Board will be started and those wishing to join signed up at the end of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A Tyler
Board Secretary