

Adam,

Please share the following with fellow School Board Members:

No one understands more than me the necessity of government agencies continuing to conduct business in these unprecedented times. However, one needs to understand that when Governor Ricketts relaxed the Open Meeting Act rules, the intent was for agencies to be able to simply continue functioning.

That said, items of no immediate nature nor items with long standing or generational effects on the school district, or people or communities of the district such as the co-op/consolidation discussion need to be handled carefully.

It makes sense for the committee to update the rest of the board as to the outcomes of the proposed meetings with Friend and Fillmore Central. But it would be out of line for any sort of vote to take place on this item at this time.

Honestly, it is just too big of topic to decide under relaxed open meetings act rules. A videoconference is great to get done the district's basic needs to function, but it diminishes public participation to a great extent. I appreciate the opportunity to have you read this at the meeting and the board's discussion on all matters, however as you know, a public meeting allows for the public to have an opportunity to be part of the back and forth discussion of any agenda item. As we all know, that can't take place under this format.

Going forward on the topic of co-op/consolidation, I would be interested in hearing the opinions of the head coaches more than the assistant coaches. I'm a big fan of chain of command and hearing from the Activities Director and/or head coaches firsthand in a public meeting seems fitting in this discussion.

Since the board acknowledged at its last meeting that we are not in a hurry to make this decision, then let's do justice to the process. Without question, a similar curriculum study should be done with Fillmore Central or any other neighboring district the board sees fit.

A unified district option should get serious debate and study.

Also, since the board said it was in no hurry at its last meeting, I encourage waiting to at least after the November election to make a decision. No. 1, hopefully we are past the pandemic and, No. 2, if decision is made to merge with anyone, no doubt there will be a couple years of growing pains that accompany it. It makes sense to have the board members that made the decision be the ones to deal with the growing pains.

At the last meeting it was insinuated that discussions concerning an all-sports co-op or consolidation with Friend have been commonplace at numerous board meetings so no public

should have been shocked when it showed up on the March agenda. There was public comment that night that some patrons were not aware of these discussions. In looking back at a year's worth of agendas, I saw agenda items relating to co-ops with Friend that dealt specifically with football and softball. While I'm sure some casual discussion took place at the board meeting regarding the bigger picture, you have to realize that discussion of an all-inclusive co-op and most definitely a consolidation is a different animal altogether and would deserve its own agenda item – like it has for the past two meetings. To assume patrons were somehow uninterested in something bigger based on a sport-specific agenda item seems wrong after seeing the attendance at the March meeting.

This is no doubt the biggest decision the school board has made in many years – maybe since Milligan and Exeter combined. I encourage patience, the board educating itself on the many options that are at their disposal -- and most of all -- a realization that this is a big picture, long term decision.

Please don't lose sight of the forest for the trees.

Thank you for your service.

Kyle Svec

From: Shellie Olsen [mailto:shell-bell73@live.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 12:44 PM

To: Adam Erdkamp

Subject: tonights meeting

Adam:

It was brought to my attention that the discussion/decision of cooping sports would be held tonight. I am strongly against this. And I do not think now is the time, considering what is going on with Covid-19. I feel like you are trying to "sneak" this in and i am outraged!!

This is not fair to the E-M kids who were shorted this year and then have this thrown at them. I have to talked to most of the girls that Emma is teammates with and not one of these kids want this. And it's not about not wanting to pushed to be better. Let's face it Friend sucked last year. This benefits nobody at this time!

Shellie Olsen

Adam/Mr. President,

I was told I could voice my opinion about the co-oping of sports to you. I don't really want to rant but has anyone asked the KIDS what they want to do???

Our kids are apposed to it, I and my husband are apposed to it. Friend was terrible last year in sports, we weren't all that great. So how does moving up to class C2 benefit our athletic department. I'm pretty sure we have enough athletes to field all our teams and then some. Maybe we don't have enough for a JV squad but we have prevailed in the past. I have heard this is a done deal and that there has been no opposition to co-oping sports with Friend and consolidating down the road. I don't see how that can be, when everyone I have talked to is opposed to it. What do you need from the patrons to say to show our opposition. Give us more time with this COVID 19 virus before you put it to a vote and I guarantee I can get a petition of plenty of people opposing this co-op of sports and consolidation of schools. I will say that there are not many people who want to spend the time to sit down and voice their opinion on paper, but if they are verbally asked you will get the true consensus of this proposal/done deal vote!!!!!! I will personally go door to door if need be.

Sincerely,

Carol Capek

Feel free to read this tonight at the meeting.

From: Sherri Due [mailto:duesherri75@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 12:41 PM

To: Adam Erdkamp

Subject: Tonights Meeting

Adam,

I was just notified that at tonight's meeting that there are enough votes to pass the consolidation of sports with Friend. I'm hearing that you are telling people that there isn't one person against it.

Not sure if all this is true, but I know for a fact there are several people against this. If we join with Friend on sports, this moves us to Class C-2 and we will continue to have a losing record just like Friend did this past year. I don't feel like they have much to offer us as far as sports go and I don't think it's fair to the Exeter kids who are not getting to finish out their sports seasons this year and then get thrown into a consolidation next year. We are not giving the kids who this will be affecting a voice in this.

After reading the report done on both schools, it doesn't look like Exeter's student numbers are going to change that much in the next 10 years. There was the suggestion of closing one of the Exeter's buildings due to a waste in money spent on two buildings and the time teachers spend traveling between and I think that makes perfect sense. It was also mentioned to have the teachers at both Friend and Exeter work together on curriculum. I think that's an excellent idea.

I don't feel we are at a place that we need to be consolidating sports or classes at this time.

This is my opinion and I feel you may lose some kids from our school system if this is passed.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me.

Sherri

2:15 PM (18
minutes ago)

Wesley Ronne

to me, Adam

Recently I've been hearing many concerns with the school consolidation from the student body. The biggest complaint I've heard is the students don't see why we need to co-op at the moment, everyone seems to be in consensus that they like the 10-15 student class range. I also feel like a good idea would be to send a google form out to the students to get a general consensus on some of the major concerns parents and students to have at the moment. I know a lot of people have very strong opinions at the moment, but I feel like if you gave people a systemized way to give feedback it'd help keep comments constructive. In the end, it may help to unify everyone as this is a very dividing issue and to just a good reminder that we're all on the same team. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Wes

From: Amie Underwood [mailto:Amie.Underwood@ubt.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Adam Erdkamp
Subject: Board Meeting

Hi Adam,

I am emailing with concerns of the items on the agenda specifically the discussion regarding the consolidation with Friend. Jeff and I really feel like this should be discussed at a meeting where there is the opportunity for discussion among the board members, staff and parents. This is too big of a decision to be made tonight at the meeting.

Thank you.

Amie

From: Kole Svec [mailto:kole.svec@emwolves.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 6:58 PM

To: Adam Erdkamp

Subject: Possible co-op/consolidation

The tenth-grade class completely agrees with what Wesley Ronne's emailed earlier said. As for the sports co-op, we all agree that we still have the numbers to field teams in each sport and that a co-op is not necessary as we still have the numbers to support teams.

