

North Colonie CSD and Maplewood-Colonie Common SD
Reorganization Feasibility Study
November 28, 2006
Minutes

1. Three committee members who were unable to attend the first organizational meeting were introduced and welcomed to the committee: Andrea Burr, Thomas Flood, and Lois Siegel.
2. Consultant Dan Porter presented a brief summary of “governance” and explained what occurs in the event of an annexation. A comparison of Board of Education election history for both Maplewood and North Colonie was also reviewed.

The committee then broke out into three groups, who at this time came together for a short “Community Activity.” The results of this activity were:

All three groups agreed that if an annexation were to take place, it would be beneficial to maintain a Board of Education consisting of 9 members, which is currently the configuration in North Colonie. An annexation would provide an opportunity for more diversity and power sharing on the North Colonie Board of Education. Also, there would be 2 seats available on the Board in the next election, which could potentially allow Maplewood residents representation on the Board. In the event of an annexation, the Maplewood Board of Education would continue to function and complete routine matters of the board until July 1. In regard to Maplewood’s financial books, the SED financial data deadline is September 1. Of concern would be the initial lack of Maplewood representation on the Board, and the chance that a Maplewood resident would not be elected to the Board. Would there be an opportunity for a Maplewood resident to be appointed to an advisory committee? Maplewood residents have concerns that their needs may be overlooked. Should there be an opportunity for an advisory committee, it should be noted that no one on that committee would have a voice in the voting process.

3. Consultant Roy McMaster gave a very descript summary of financial factors and annexation aid possibilities, as well as a hand-out describing his presentation (both in figures and graphs). In all, the advantage for Maplewood would be an immediate and considerable reduction in the tax rate. Although there would be no great advantage to the North Colonie School District regarding tax rates, there would be a large benefit to the district in that the district would gain monies for building and special projects.
4. Dr. Lee Peters led the three groups into a “Feasibility Committee Breakout.

First Question

What percentage of extra money do you favor for tax relief?

➤ Group 3

- less than 50%; more like 20-33%
 - need more information
- Group 2
 - 33% for tax relief; 67% for program and reserve accounts
- Group 1
 - 25% tax relief; 25% programs; 25% capital work; 25% reserve accounts

Second Question

What Pro's and Con's have emerged regarding the Governance study?

As stated above, the responses were:

- Pro
 - Potential for Maplewood to be represented on the Board
 - Maplewood would have the opportunity to run for Board seats and vote
 - A 9 member board optimum for broad representation
- Con
 - The possibility exists that Maplewood could end up with no board representation

Third Question

Pro's and Con's regarding Financial Information

- Pro
 - Money available for programs, such as reduced class size
 - Maplewood tax rate would be greatly reduced
 - Huge tax incentive for businesses in Maplewood
 - Immediate tax relief for Homestead and Non Homestead - Maplewood
 - Reserve funds
 - \$29 million for both districts
 - North Colonie tax rate stabilized
 - North Colonie receives much aid for capital work which will positively effect the tax rate
- Con
 - Not much direct impact on North Colonie tax rate
 - No guarantee future boards will follow committee recommendations
 - Building aid
 - Potential Excel aid
 - Lack of sellable tax incentive for North Colonie
 - Political climate is changing – no guarantees
 - How to best use the money

**The next meeting will take place on:
Tuesday, December 12
at Maplewood
5:00pm (light dinner)
Meeting begins at 5:30pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Stearns
North Colonie Central Schools
December 1, 2006