

Candia School District High School Options Committee

September 2014- March 2015

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Candia's High School:

The Candia School Board and residents voted in favor of a 20-year contract with the Manchester School District to send all Candia students to Central High School. The contract started in September 2003, ending in June 2023.

Within the contract, there were built-in contingency plans to allow both parties to break the contract if needed.

By June 2016, the Candia School Board has the option to give notice to Manchester School District with the intention that Candia would leave Central High School in June 2018. Those Candia students still enrolled at Central High School would be allowed to stay for the remainder of their schooling until graduation.

Over the past few years, school board members, town officials and citizens have discussed investigating other options for high school for the Candia students. Through these informal discussions, a warrant article was established. On the March 2014 school ballot, a warrant article was presented.

Warrant Article #5

To explore and research other options for high school placement other than Manchester School District (Central High School).

The warrant article passed. 568 yes, 182 no

The Candia School District High School Options Committee was established in September 2014.

Committee Membership:

The charge of the committee was to explore and research high schools within a 20-mile radius of the Candia Moore School.

The committee was made up of 6 members, two school board members, three parents of children currently attending the Moore School and a retired resident with children who had gone through the public school system.

Committee Timeline:

1. The committee met and determined that the research would include a variety of public high schools, 10 in all.

2. Each member researched one or two of the assigned school(s) and reported back to the committee. The research was based on a template of what each school offered.
3. A spreadsheet was established to compare each school. The committee determined many similarities yet each school had their own unique qualities.
4. The field of schools was narrowed down to four schools that had expressed a possible interest in becoming our school of record.
5. Two committee members met with Dr. Littlefield, superintendent of SAU 15, and crafted a letter to be sent to the superintendents of the four high school that were researched. The letter inquired if the district/high school would consider building a relationship with the Candia students in the future.
6. The four schools responded favorably to pursuing a relationship. They included Raymond High School, Londonderry High School, Pinkerton Academy, and Pembroke Academy.
7. Two committee members visited each school including our current high school, Central High School. The visit included a tour, meeting with personnel and addressing specific topics. Notes and data were collected on these visits. See additional pages for specifics.

Raymond High School

Date of visit: 1/5/15

Committee Members Present: Karyn Yeatman / Sharon DeWitt

Met with: Superintendent Ellen Small

Max capacity 600 students, currently enrolled is 450

Average Class size (high/low): Under 20 – most 16/17. Currently about 450 students / Built for 600

Special Ed: varies - about 17%

Post High School:

4 year: 38%

2 Year: 26%

Military: 4%

Work Force: 32%

Dropout rate: 1.3%

Class Types (AP, College Credits, Special Offerings):

Advanced Placement Courses: (4) English Literature, Calculus, Biology and US History,

Honors: (15) English, World Literature, American Literature Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Math, Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science, Physics, World History, Government and Economics and US History

Running Start program offered at school where students can take courses from Community Colleges and SNHU.

Standardized Tests: K-8 NWEA / sophomores PSAT...They are working toward having all juniors take the SATs.

They test the entire population. ESL students are tested in English. Most are bilingual.

Sports Division: They are Division 3. Girls Soccer team came in 2nd in the state. Boys made the finals. They do have Raymond High Sports Scholarships. There is no lacrosse or swimming or golf but they do have a Bowling Team.

BYOD Policies/Access to technology: They allow BYOD. They have a smart board in every class. There is a tech person in each building. They have 3 computer labs at the HS. 2 computer carts. 1 I-pad cart. WIFI accessible building. BYOD is per teacher wish.

Access to Technology: Smart Board in every classroom, three computer labs, two laptops carts and one ipad cart

Career/Tech program availability: Seacoast School of Technology in Exeter. 2 sessions for juniors and seniors. There is an AM and a PM session. One course available to freshmen in engineering

Disciplinary Policy: no open campus. They do town wide emergency drills involving school, police, fire, and ambulatory services

Turnover: Mix 1/3 new, 1/3 5-10 years, 1/3 longer. Varies year to year. Not the highest paid district in the state. 1 new teacher last year.

Base Tuition: Will be competitive with what other schools are offering. \$13,400 this year and last.

Londonderry High School

Date of visit: 1/21/15

Committee Members Present: Jen Maurice, Karyn Yeatman, Sharon DeWitt

Met With: Superintendent Nate Greenberg and Principal Jay Parent; Tour by Asst. Principal Katie Sullivan

Max capacity: 1800/ currently 1691

Average Class Size: 16-22

Special Education Population: district wide 16.5% (saved 6 million dollars moving Sped services in houses)

Post High School: (2014)

4 year: 71%

2 year: 15%

Armed Services: 4%

Employment: 9%

Other: 1%

Dropout Rate: .36%

Advance Placement Classes (11): Calculus AB, Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, Spanish Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, U.S. History, European History, US Government and Politics, Environmental Science, Statistics.

Advanced/Honors Classes (25): Honors English 9, 10 & 11, Honors Writing Workshop, Honors Creative Writing, Honors College Composition, Honors Macro Economics, Honors World Geography, HOnors French IV, Honors Spanish IV, german Conversation and Culture, German Composition & Lit., Latin Poetry, Latin Prose, Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry, HOnors Pre-Calculus, Honors Adv. Topics Chemistry, Honors Physics, Honors Anatomy and Physiology, HOnors Accounting, Honors C++, Honors Digital Electronics.

*27-28 dual enrollment classes (HS/College Credit), Project Running Start / SNHU

Standardized Testing: Ready Step (Freshmen), PSAT (Sophomores & Juniors), SAT (Juniors)

*PSAT / SAT data used for course selection. AP Potential 60% chance 3,4,5 AP Exam - over 200 students qualify

Entire school population tested

*SAT scores above national & state average

Sports: Division I,

Special Education: district-wide is -16.5%

*Saved 6 million dollars moving SPE services in house

BYOD/ Access to technology: Library/media personnel are tech Savvy. They have BYOD policies. Utilize Flip Learning.

Access to Technology: Technology in library. ipads/laptops. Freshman science program issued ipads. They have smart boards. They have a Technology Integrationist to work with teachers on software and equipment utilization.

Career / Tech program availability: MST / Alvirne. Assist with internships. Ratio of spots available.

Disciplinary Policy: They report out twice/year to the school board. Have done security upgrades - cameras outside and inside vestibules. Coplink. 64 main / 16 gym. Radios to all schools. Not an open campus. Have drug/alcohol counselors. ACT: Acknowledge, Care, Tell

Orientation in June for Freshmen / Step-Up Day and the first day back is ½ day before school returns. They make personal connections with the kids. They know their students. Utilize a 4 house system divided alphabetically.

Base Tuition: \$10,700 (what Hooksett pays / based on what they pay Pinkerton)

Articulation agreements: LHS and the following post secondary schools have built bridges to allow LHS graduates to attend them. The articulation programs seek to encourage all LHS students to consider post-secondary options, and to make Londonderry course selection more purposeful for students. Articulation Agreements may require a certain course load or a minimum GPA for admission and may include scholarship money for those students attaining higher levels of achievement. As of 2011-12, LHS has articulation agreements with the following colleges and universities: Franklin Pierce University, Johnson and Wales University, New England School of Communication, UMass-Lowell, UNH-Manchester, Rivier College, Suffolk University, Southern NH University.

Pinkerton Academy

Date of Visit: 1/30/15

Committee Members Present: Karyn Yeatman

Met with: Griffin Morse, Headmaster

Max capacity: currently about 3192 attending

Average class size: 24 per class

Special Ed Population: 500 students/~15%

Post High School:

Graduation Rate: 97%

2 and 4 year: 77%

Military: 4%

Workforce: 19%

Dropout: .95%

Attend 4 + years: n/a

Advanced Placement Classes (19): Art History, Art Studio, Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, English Language and Composition, Senior AP, Junior AP, European History, French Language, German Language, Macro/Micro Economics, Music Theory, Physics 1 & 2, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, US History, APP Development.

Advanced / Honors Classes (21): Advanced Acting, Argumentative Writing, Career Ed Internship, Creative Writing A, Food Preparation, Advanced Studio Arts, Woodworking, Yearbook Design and Production A, Algebra 2, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, English, French, Geometry, German, Latin, Pre-Calculus, Science Independent Research, Honors Spanish 3&4

Standardized testing: PSAT sophomores/SAT juniors / Smarter Balance in Spring

ESL included? Yes, Tested in English with accommodations as necessary

Total % not tested:

Sports Divisions: Division 1

BYOD: At teacher's discretion

Access to Technology: 1,500 computers on campus, 35 computer labs, piloting program with ipads and chromebooks.

Career/ Tech program availability: Own tech program on site: Largest in the state. Built into schedule.

Teacher Turnover:

Base Tuition: \$11,064

Other requirements of graduation - 30 hour community service, a formal essay about their 4 years at school.

Pembroke Academy

Date of Visit: 1/30/15

Committee Members Present: Karyn Yeatman / Sharon DeWitt

Met with: Robert Pedersen, Interim Headmaster; Superintendent Patty Sherman; Tim Hebert, Dean of Students

Max capacity: 1200 / current about 860

Average class size: 24-25 high / 16-18 avg

Special Ed Population: 12.5%

Post High School:

4 year: 29 %

2 year: 37 %

Military: 8%

Workforce: 21%

Dropout: 1%

Attend 4 + years: n/a

Advanced Placement Classes (11): AP Studio Art: Drawing, AP Computer Science, AP English Literature, AP Calculus AB, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics I, AP US History, AP European History, AP French, AP Spanish

Advanced / Honors Classes (17): Advanced Pottery, Advanced Stained Glass, Honors Theory and Composition, Advanced Accounting, Honors English 10, Honors English 11, Accelerated Geometry, Accelerated Algebra II, Accelerated Pre-Calculus, Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, Advanced Robotics, Honors US History, Honors Economics, Honors American Government, Honors Constitutional Law, Advanced French

Standardized testing: PSAT (sophomores) / SAT (juniors) on-site, Smarter Balance in Spring.

ESL included? Yes, Tested in English with accommodations as necessary

Total % not tested: 6

Sports Divisions: Boys Basketball DI / All other athletics DII

BYOD: Student's discretion with teacher approval in class.

Access to Technology: 9 chromebook carts, 2 computer labs, library media center w/ desktops and laptop computers. Every class has smart board.

Career/ Tech program availability: Partnership with Concord Regional Technology Center.

Teacher Turnover: 1-2% annually

Base Tuition: Per MOU (AREA: \$11,629 / Hooksett: \$12,107)

Other requirements of graduation - 30 hour community service, a formal essay about their 4 years at school.

40 co-curricular activities including: Bass Fishing NHIA, Chain Reaction Club, Card and Gaming club, Wraparound Philosophy, Straight / Gay Alliance.

Other:

- 2 week Freshman Program in summer. Voluntary but 95% + participation. M-F counselors/teachers...core values/beliefs/skill sets, etc. Pushing Your Limits (2.5 credits for successful completion)
- Differentiated diplomas
- Summer Reading for all 4 years / Community Read / Department Specific.
- Advisory 1x/day 15 minutes (12-20 students) Advisor stays with student all 4 years.

Central High School

Date of visit: 1/21/15

Committee Members Present: Karyn Yeatman, Sharon DeWitt

Met With: Principal John Vaccarezza* all info pulled by Central staff from DOE website

Average Class Size: 20.4

% Post High School: (2012-13)

4 year: 34%

2 year: 25.4%

Armed Services: 2.8%

Employment: 5.1%

Dropout Rate: 2012-13 report 4.87%/expect 2013/14 report to be half that %

Attend 4+ years: 2.7% of students are currently attending 4+ years (original year of graduation is 2014 or earlier)

Percent status unknown: 32.3%

Advance Placement Classes (15): AP Studio Art, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, AP European History, AP United States History, AP United States Government and Politics, AP Psychology, AP World History, AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, AP Computer Science, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Latin

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Advanced/Honors Classes (24): English 1, 2, &3, American Studies - Lit, British Lit., Geometry, Algebra 2 & Trig, Pre-Calculus, French 4 & 5, Physical Science, Biology 1, Chemistry, Civics, World History, Economics, American Studies - History, Law, Advanced Instrumental Studies, Band, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Music Theory 3

*dual enrollment classes (HS/College Credit), Project Running Start / SNHU

Standardized Testing: NECAP

Sports: Class L Sports / D1

Special Education:

BYOD/ Access to technology: There are computers that are accessible in the library which is open before and after school and also during the school day.

Students are permitted to use electronic devices in their classrooms at the discretion of the teachers. Students are permitted to use devices in the cafe.

Career / Tech program availability: All juniors and seniors are allowed to take courses at MST

Disciplinary Policy: Principal directed us to policy at: https://www.dropbox.com/s/38fm4t3zghy6f3e/code_of_conduct_FINAL_August_2010.pdf. Encourages legal action for any fights taking place on campus.

Base Tuition: \$9,500 (plus capital costs)

Teacher Turnover: besides retirement, only two teachers requested to leave last year.

Recommendations:

Each high school offered an impressive education to those who attend. The high schools had well established programming to address all students and learners. The schools that stood out with exemplary education offerings were Raymond High School, Londonderry High School and Pinkerton High School.

Based on the tours and information collected the Task Force recommends that the School Board look into using the early release clause of the high school contract with Central High School in favor of another high school. The three high schools the Task Force recommends are Raymond High School, Londonderry High School and Pinkerton Academy.

Reasons for Recommendations

Raymond High School

- Our site visit included a tour with students only, a meeting with the the Guidance and Special Education, the Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, The head of the Freshman Academy and Principal of the Seacoast School of Technology
- Raymond School Board is in favor of becoming Candia's School of Record
- Their progress over the past five years has included higher test scores and implementation of new programs.
- They offer summer programs at Dartmouth, Phillips Exeter and Brown University
- They are the closest High School option and offer the same small town feel the children at the Henry Moore School are accustomed to
- Many of the students in the two towns are familiar with each from town league sports and activities
- They have smart Board in every classroom and access to much more technology throughout the building

Londonderry High School

- Our Site visit included a meeting The Superintendent, the Principal and a tour given by the Assistant Principal
- Students have access to technology through the entire building including carts, ipads, flip learning, and well equipt media centers
- The feeling of pride and respect for the high school by both staff and students was overwhelmingly apparent
- There was a real sense of community at the high school, it was inviting and seemed to create a positive learning environment
- Even with 1621 children attending the high school that was still a small school feeling
- Their SAT scores are above the state average
- 90% of their student continue on 2 or 4 year colleges

Pinkerton Academy

- Our visit site was given by the Headmaster
- They offer an amazing amount of course, programs, and extracurricular activities
- They offer a freshman academy, where students are divided into four teams
- There is frequent communication between middle schools and Pinkerton ensuring a “well plotted trail”
- There is a significant amount of summer programing, including a field day, freshman orientation (freshman dry run their schedule before other students are on campus)

- Extensive Career and Technical Education (CTE) course, largest in the state, all offered on campus
- There are several opportunities for families and students to become involved with the campus before they attend

Recommended Next Steps:

The committee believes the Candia School board should

- Review the research that was compiled
- Determine the feasibility of the school options
- Have high schools host a Candia community evening
- Hold public forums to share on future high school options

If the community demonstrates a positive interest in pursuing a particular school, other than Central High School:

- Begin negotiations with the school district
- Hold public community forums to educate the public
- Use a variety of social media and school mailings to educate the public
- Involve the NH Department of Education for approval of the tuition agreement
- Additional public community forums
- Draft a warrant article for the March 2016 school ballot. This article would allow the town residents to vote in favor or oppose of the tuition agreement