

OPEN ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Open Enrollment Committee Report February 5, 2010

Purpose:

The charge of this committee was to determine whether or not offering school choice to students in RSU#23 would result in potential cost-savings for the district, while maintaining high quality educational experiences for all.

Conclusions/Recommendations of the Open Enrollment Committee:

- 1) The 2010 – 2011 year will be a pilot year.
- 2) The focus would be on accepting Dayton students (by request) who are currently in the 5th grade at the Dayton Consolidated School and the 8th grade at Saco Middle School.
 - The rationale is that these are the two transition years to a new school.
 - The committee suggests that an invitation would be extended to the present Dayton 6th and 7th grade students at Saco Middle School.
 - Movement of students would only be from Dayton to Old Orchard Beach.
- 3) Develop a common application/registration process.
- 4) Open school enrollment will promote beneficial learning opportunities for both Dayton and OOB students.
 - Dayton students are accustomed to a small learning environment, where more opportunities for personalized learning are available through smaller class sizes. Some Dayton students may want to continue to learn in this type of environment.
 - Old Orchard Beach schools offer a similar small school environment with smaller classes and access to more sports teams with a "no cut" philosophy.
 - If some Dayton students chose to attend Loranger Middle School, it would relieve overcrowding at Saco Middle School and allow for a more balanced utilization of current resources between the two schools. This would enhance the learning environments in both schools.
- 5) The implementation of this option would save money for the district.
 - This program would not require any additional staffing for the upcoming school year. Loranger Middle School can accommodate any number of present 5th grade Dayton students interested in attending without impacting the budget. OOB High School can accommodate 10-12 incoming 9th graders without impacting the budget.

- Initially, this would be an immediate cost-savings for the district. The potential savings over time would be significant by reducing the tuition paid to Thornton Academy for any Dayton students who remained in Old Orchard Beach during their high school years.

The Open Enrollment Committee recommends that the Board consider offering school choice to Dayton students currently in grades 5 through 8. The pilot year of this program would offer opportunities to review and evaluate the effectiveness of this open enrollment process.