Mar 29 61

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B J Wold
Box 84
Seeley Lake, Mont.

Mr John Taylor –
Ch. MCHS Bd. of Trustees

Dear Sir –

Does our Seeley Lake High School appear on the ballot on April 1st? If not – why not? We, of Seeley Lake feel that we deserve an answer. If we are refused we want to know the ruling and law invoked, concisely and precisely. If its no due to procrastination – we ~~want to~~ will know that.

Sincerely,
B.J. Wold
Mem. Seeley H S comm.

I could include here a long list of names in support of this quest if it would serve any purpose but if you will inform me I will certainly let as many as possible know – or a public announcement by yourself in

the newspaper would be more commendable.

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Mar. 30

B.I.Wold
Box 84
Seeley Lake, Mont.

Dear Mrs. Kreis,

Thank you from the committee for the correction of enrollments of grade school students from Greenough. On checking we found that our information for enrollments from Greenough and Potomac came from resident-acquaintances in those communities and not school officials. They were supposed to be based on the high point attendance of the year. These facts change, and even reverse so fast that it is difficult to keep up. We reported that Woodworth had 3 ~~students riding the HS bus-Which they had~~ -and no grade students. That family moved and was replaced by a family who had 3 grade students ~~and none in HS~~ -our report had to be reversed.

We are convinced that our children would be getting a much fairer shake if we had a high school here instead of commuting to Missoula. We know that there are also advantages to a smaller (not a small) HS over one the size of MCHS. Our chief enrollment and attendance would be from lower Swan Valley and here at Seeley Lake. We wouldn't have to look elsewhere but would welcome attendance from other areas. The number of students who now live in these two places would be a larger number, than attend quite a few High Schools now in this county. And we would grow like a forest fire. Farm-ranch communities such as your own, are necessarily a much more stable in population than a woods industry area such as ours. Your land is pretty much taken up and an increase in population would call for subdividing present holdings. The point I'M trying to make is that we know that we have begun and will continue to grow making a HS in this vicinity a necessity.

I read between the lines of your letter that you have a genuine concern for what you believe to be best for the children of this area as well as your own. Otherwise I wouldn't attempt an answer at all. Do you realize MRS. KREIS how many of those people who signed that letter to'Opinions Of People' have interests and real estate in our area. That they ask 4 and 5 times the price for this property that they valued it for when they bought it? Do they really believe that the timber here is about gone or that Seeley is going to Pot? Also some of those signatures came from ~~out of the county-Powell-~~ . People without children who are interested only in living out their lives without making any contributions to anyone or anything.

We never want to act or convey the idea that we are unappreciative of the present HS bus. I was on the committee that helped work it up and was a member who attended the meeting of MCHS board of trustees, when we pleaded our cause and were granted the bus. We know that we have outgrown the bus phase and need a high school of our own in this area.

We were assured by the present MCHS board that a high here would never compel students from Greenbugh or Potomac to attend a HS here. That total amount that a levy for our new HS here would proable cost you $6 or $7 once only-- would this be prohibitive due to the high cost.? We are well aware of the fact that yoy too have school problems. Please feelthat you h ave freinds and neighbors here that care and are willing to help in any way they can. We will. Just write Pres. Seeley Lake PTA or myself if there is anything at all we can do, now, or in time to come.

Our longest route would be around 30 miles in lingth, less than ½ the distance now, hence ½ the time. The bus would leave later and return earlier. Snow plows and sanding equipment would have opportunity to get over the road first instead of having the bus break trail as it does now.

To sum it all up dollar-wise: Present bus costs per year-$6,597.63. This is for 1 bus which is overcrowded now and will require another perhaps next fall. Double the bus cost. Then add what the next bidder will ask for on his contract. We were very fortunate in getting such a low bid last time. Then too if we must continue this long ride it will be necessary to ask for more comfortable type busses. Now the allotted space per pupil is a bare 13½. With deeper cushions the number pupil capacity would necessarily be cut down.

With a HS unit here students would be brought in. M CHS would begin to receive tuitions from brought-in students instead of paying tuitions and room and board in lieu of transportation, as they are presently paying to other counties. Approximate cost per student year at MCHS is $400.00. Approximate cost per ~~student/year/at~~ Seeley student year at MCHS is $700.00. Would a branch HS at Seeley actually cost the Mela Co. taxpayer money considered a few years period?

The MCHS board of trustees felt that it wasn't reasonable to expect people who were closer to MCHS than they are to Seeley to attend HS here. We were assurred that it would be of their own choosing.

After a reasonable investigation of all the facts and costs and benefits involved the must frugal taxpayer can come only to the conclusion that Seeley Lake and Swan area need and deserve and will help pay for a HS at Seeley Lake.

Bernard I. Wold
Member, High School for Seeley
Lake Fact Finding Committee.
Box 84, Seeley Lake, Mont.

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