

October 2, 2007

Dear Community Members,

After many months of research and reflection, it is with great excitement that we announce the selection of a new architectural design firm that will work with our community, administration, faculty, students and school board to develop a new plan to address the needs of our students and community. Bast and Rood Architects, from Hinesburg, VT, was established in 1994, and is experienced in construction, sustainable design, and has significant experience with school building projects. Both architects have teaching experience at the Yestermorrow Design/Build School and will incorporate that experience to teach our students the importance of a sustainable design, with an emphasis on energy efficiency. Additionally, both partners serve their communities on their respective town select boards. Mac Rood has previously served his community as a school board member. Both are committed to helping Craftsbury present a design that will meet our needs in a "High Performance School" model. They are experienced with helping communities come together and bringing projects to a successful conclusion.

Our design partners would like the opportunity to meet with community members on October 25, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Academy gymnasium. This meeting will follow prior meetings with the faculty, administration and students. Bast and Rood have begun investigating the options that are available to Craftsbury. They will be available to discuss these options with the community and give the community an opportunity to meet the firm that is committed to helping us address our facility needs in a responsible and cost efficient manner. This will be the first of many planned community input meetings so that you may be kept informed and involved in this process. While it is the school directors' responsibility to approve the final plan that will be recommended to the community, our intent is to stay in close contact as we refine and define what facilities we will need for the future in Craftsbury. This will truly be a community project. The timeline proposed would allow us to have a bond vote near the end of April.

Two of the most commonly asked questions we encounter are regarding the 9th-12th grade program and whether or not to consolidate. As a board, we are committed to providing a K-12 educational program for Craftsbury students, and to consolidate our existing facilities. Consolidation will allow our students to share facilities and resources. Additionally, if we do not fall within the state's guidelines as a consolidated facility, we will not be eligible for any state assistance. With an approved plan and the State's assistance, we will be able to provide a modern facility that will serve our students and our community for generations to come.

We would like to thank an anonymous community member who has graciously donated \$70,000 to assist us with this project. This, along with previous donations totaling \$16,000, will go a long way toward paying for pre-bond architectural and engineering studies that need to be completed. We truly live in a special community and without this support; we would not be able to move forward as quickly.

In closing, we look forward to seeing all of you on October 25, at 7:00 pm to start an important conversation about the future of our school facilities. We have carefully listened to our community in the past and we hope you will join us for the start of this new dialogue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jmarckres@hotmail.com or call me at my home 586-9656. Thank you all for your continued support of our students and this community.

Respectfully,

Julie Marckres
Chairperson, Craftsbury School Directors