

MSAD 51: THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

1957

Maine Legislature passes the Sinclair Act, incentivizing small towns to consolidate.
Goal: High school enrollments of at least 300 students.

1960

Cumberland, North Yarmouth, and Pownal consider consolidating—although even together, there are fewer than 300 high school students.

1961

The classroom wing of the future high school is approved and constructed, and occupied by junior high students.

Consolidation studies
are ongoing.

Proposed School District Seen Cumberland Need

CUMBERLAND — If the school administrative district proposed for Cumberland, Md., is rejected, Cumberland will be left as an island unto itself, citizens were told Tuesday.

Fredrick M. Logan Jr. of the school committee and chairman of the town committee which has proposed the Cumberland district, said Cumberland cannot go into a district either with the town or with North Yarmouth and Pownall may be forced to go into some district or be forced to leave Cumberland alone.

Logan is an independent on the town. The legislature would not approve a district because of them because the school board would not agree to it. A 300-pupil high school is required by the school district law.

Logan presented details of the proposed district at a public hearing Tuesday night. Gyger Cunningham, a similar proposal will be held at North Yarmouth and another Thursday night at Pownall.

Voting will take place in the individual towns either Nov. 15 or Nov. 15 by August 15. The eleven district directors will be elected at the same time. The director representation would be six from Cumberland, three from North Yarmouth, and two from Pownall, for a total of the school population.

The new district would be a district with no state subsidies would begin at the time.

A number of questions at the Cumberland-meeting concerned curriculum, and citizens were asked if Pownall had a high standard of education. The answer was yes.

It was also asked if the town would scrutinize the district budget against the answer was yes.

Logan said that the town would own the school buildings and the town would be turned over to the district.

No opposition was voiced at the meeting. The meeting was between 125 and 150.

In November, 1962 the issue is brought to a vote in all three towns.

THE FIRST VOTE

North Yarmouth
approves, 190-31
Pownal approves, 137-23

Cumberland.
396-360.

1962

Cumberland Vote Defeats Three-Town SAD System

A proposed three-town school, administrative district was defeated by 36 votes Friday when voters in the district turned thumbs down, 396 to 360.

North Yarmouth and Pownal overwhelmingly approved the measure.

North Yarmouth's vote was 190 to 31 in favor of the district. Pownal 137 to 23.

The district board of directors in their approval to form a school district.

Ironically, Cumberland voters approved by slim margins two other articles dealing with the formation of a district: Article 2, which gave the district board full responsibility for outstanding school indebtedness

of the three towns, 371 to 351. Article 4—To elect a board of directors on an 8-2-2 ratio, 362 to 351.

Cumberland would have had eight directors, North Yarmouth three and Pownal two. The district board of directors also approved both articles.

Controversy developed at Cumberland during the past year over the district. Dillenback, chairman of selectmen, said the town would pay the lion's share of district costs, but the district would pay the district costs would rise.

Other district opponents said the district would be run with other towns.

**Take
a deep
breath.**

The towns continue to debate the pros and cons of consolidation
Another vote is taken in May, 1963.

THE SECOND VOTE

Cumberland votes to approve, but there's a ballot mixup on Chebeague, and the state is called in for a recount.

Cumberland SAD Alliance Approved By Six Votes

Cumberland SAD Vote 5/12/13
**Chebeague Recount
May Bring 497 Tie**

Recount Shows 491-491 Tie
Defeating Cumberland SAD 4/13

1963

N. Yarmouth Votes Against School Contract For '63-64

NORTH YARMOUTH
This town voted 99-35 at a special town meeting Monday night to follow the recommendations of the transportation committee and allow students to ride to high school. The vote will attend for the coming year.

Deputies authorized the school committee to accept tuition reimbursement for students who would ride to high school.

They also approved by 83-3 an article which called for Gray-Norwester regional administrative District 13.

They voted to dismiss four candidates for the position which they proposed contracting to a private company to provide transportation to Gray.

BITTER OPPOSITION
was registered by those who criticized the North Yarmouth school committee for its "passive" attitude toward the transportation issue.

They said Cumberland had "turned them down" twice on the grounds they were not ready to vote again on the issue.

Donald Smith, school committee chairman, said he would have no objection to send high school students to school.

He said there was no assurance that Gray-Norwester regional administrative District 13 would be approved.

North Yarmouth school officials would prefer to make a decision on the transportation issue for the freshman and sophomore classes.

SMITH SAID financial considerations were continuing as in the past or contracting with Gray-Norwester regional administrative District 13.

He said Gray-Norwester regional administrative District 13 would cost the town \$100,000 for a one-year contract and \$400,000, or three-fourths of the cost, for a three-year contract for freshmen and sophomores.

However, he said transportation costs would be added to the cost of the district was included in the town budget.

The school committee chairman said Cumberland had offered to reimburse the town of \$125 for 60 percent of the cost of the district, which is a normal Grey High School district.

He said the town would save \$400 a year by not paying for an 88 per cent attendance district.

Smith said the North Yarmouth school committee is not discouraging the possibility of a Cumberland-North Yarmouth regional administrative District 13.

He said the school committee voted 30-10 for the \$100,000 voters was considered.

**Take
another
deep
breath.**

North
Yarmouth voters, “turned down twice” for consolidation, decline an offer to contract with Greely, vote to allow students to continue choosing which high school they will attend, and decide to explore other possibilities.

1964

In Feb. 1964 North Yarmouth signs a 5-year contract with Cumberland, but warns that if further study of consolidation isn't part of the bargain they will be forced to consider Gray.

North Yarmouth seeks an affordable solution for 7th and 8th grade program needs. All grades in NYMS are overcrowded. Pownal students are attending one-room schoolhouses heated by woodstoves, so they look for other possible partners. Cumberland courts Yarmouth and Falmouth because it can't afford all the space it needs on its own.

New Cumberland School To Be Open For Inspection

CUMBERLAND — Cumberland, one of the largest new high schools in the state, will be inspected from 7 to 9 a.m. tomorrow. The school inspection is the first of a series of inspections to be held over an earlier decision and the new facility plus the new classroom wing built in 1941 gives Cumberland an outstanding reputation. The school is a part of the Cumberland County Board of Education and is one of the most modern schools in the state. The school is a part of the Cumberland County Board of Education and is one of the most modern schools in the state. The school is a part of the Cumberland County Board of Education and is one of the most modern schools in the state.

High school students move to the first wing of the new high school. Junior high students move into the original Greely Institute building.

In October, 1965 a two-town committee recommends immediately purchasing property on Tuttle Road (where an old chicken house sits) and constructing a 16-classroom elementary school; building a gym and cafetorium at the high school; and adding classroom space for grades 7-12.

THIS WOULD ALL BE FEASIBLE ONLY IF A DISTRICT WERE FORMED.

Triple-C Would Shun Outdated Greely Court

Greely's Gyger Gym is the only remaining small, obsolete hoop structure in the ten-member circuit with the opening of the new Windham High School and gym this year.

Greely Cagers Lack Facilities, Forced On Road

CUMBERLAND — Limited seating facilities and inadequate dressing room and shower facilities at Oyster Gym will force Greely Institute to play its home basketball games at Yarmouth High this winter.

School superintendent Vaughn Lacombe made the announcement after a tour of the 23-year-old gym for home games, this winter.

Coaches and principals of the Cumberland County Conference, which Greely has membership in, also requested recently that the school's home schedule should be moved to the better equipped facilities in Oyster Gym.

SEATING CAPACITY at Oyster Gym is insufficient to permit many of the Greely students from attending the games. As a result, Lacombe says, revenue from basketball was insufficient to support the school.

1966

The Final Vote

January, 1966

Record Turnout

CUMBERLAND — recorded concern for a special town meeting Friday night to form a school administrative district will be enough.

The vote was 281-107. One ballot was spoiled out of the 391.

Directors elected were Andrew B. Butler and Mrs. Charles B. Butler, three years; David I. Wilson, and Clifton C. Wilson, one year; and Mabel E. Wilson, one year.

CITRERAGE ISLAND voters assumed the consequences of their vote on the board of directors by "balloting" for the school committee for the year for Mrs. McKen, school committee member from the island.

"Balloting" means most Cumberlancers vote by mail, Mrs. McKen, although they were allowed to vote for live candidates.

NORTH YARMOUTH voters met on a 2-p.m. Saturday at the school to elect the school committee.

Chairman of the SADF group, and who was "delighted" by the large turnout, was Mrs. J. Grace, chairman of the SADF group, and who was "delighted" by the large turnout.

MSAD 51.