

## Questions and Answers

### Parents:

1. Will we get handbooks from receiving schools?

*Yes. New handbooks will be available in the fall. However, all elementary handbooks are the same.*

2. When (and will) we (meaning parents) get a list of children going to our child new school?

*Two weeks prior to the close of school (June 10<sup>th</sup>) class lists will be available. However, each parent will have to sign a release for the child's name and phone number to be published.*

3. Is there a flow chart of events? Is the music program the same?

*Yes there is a time line being developed. The letter to parents listed the important dates presently scheduled. An activity sheet with times and locations will be distributed when finalized.*

4. The "Flo-Ro" play – will it be district wide? If not, can SU have their own play?

*At the present time there are no plans for this play to be district wide. This is a conversation that Mr. Myerson and his staff should discuss.*

5. Do they have grade level lunch and recess?

*Yes. Students are clustered by grade level for both.*

6. Parity of after school programs? Could we open to kids of both schools?

*Each school has its own unique offerings, usually generated by student interest. It would be reasonable for additional activities to evolve as the schools continue to develop its distinct culture. However, the Peter Twomey Youth Center makes programs available at each site.*

7. What will communication between the two schools look like? Who will bear responsibility to get info disseminated?

*The principals meet regularly to discuss common district and school initiatives. These meetings will continue in the future.*

8. Can we accommodate Swallow Union into the enrichment programs sponsored by the Florence Roche PTA?

*No, each school will have their own programs. However, there are some opportunities where students do travel to another school for special assemblies. Need more information to answer this question.*

9. How can we ensure that community groups recognize that there are kids in both schools from both towns? (ex: baseball/soccer teams)

*There may be Charter issues established by each sport that limit certain sports. This is an area of concern for the school district and conversations will begin to see if this situation can be resolved.*

10. Will teachers between schools be able to communicate about students they share/shared?

*Yes! Open lines of communications do presently exist. However, the process can be formalized for the first two months of school to ensure the staff learns about the interests, talents, skills etc... of each student.*

11. Will students be grouped with kids they know?

*This always has been and will continue to be an important criteria when classroom assignments are created.*

12. Can we have a class list so parents can plan play dates?

*Yes! However, we will need to obtain permission from the parents before releasing the list.*

13. Can we (parents) meet the teacher?

*As has been our tradition, appointments can be schedule at the beginning of the school year. You will also have an opportunity to meet the teacher during open house.*

14. What time does school start?

*Bell will ring at 8:45 and school will start at 9 am for both schools.*

15. What are the bus routes?

*Bus routes are developed in the summer and published in the local newspaper normally 2 weeks prior to the start of school.*

16. Will my child stay at their new school or will they move again?

*The superintendent recommended to the school committee that once this plan is adopted the highest priority will be given to preventing students from moving again for the next 4-5 years.*

17. Is there a bus that goes from Swallow Union to Florence Roche?

*Yes, there is an express bus from Swallow Union to Florence Roche for activities such as Cub Scouts and band.*

18. Will parents get all the same flyers home?

*Generally the answer is yes. However, there are a few occasions where a special event is planned at one school and therefore a flyer sent to all schools would not be appropriate.*

19. Are there/will there be opportunities to visit the new school?

*Yes, activities are being planned and these will be sent home via the students in early May.*

20. Will there be an opportunity for the Transition Team to meet at the beginning of the school year?

*This is an excellent idea. The superintendent will schedule a meeting once the schools are in session.*

21. Will parents know where (who) the specialists will be so the students will have a familiar face?

*Yes, a list of the staff will be provided on June 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to meet these specialists, please make an appointment with the office.*

22. Will there be multi-age or looping?

*Swallow Union will not be providing these options next year. Florence Roche will continue to have multi age and some looping options. For particulars please attend the May 13<sup>th</sup> presentation beginning at 7 pm. The elementary principals are presently reviewing classroom assignments*

23. Will the principals be having an evening roundtable/coffee/orientation?

*Yes! This event will occur on June 11 from 9:30 to 10:30 in the morning and at 6:30 to 7:30 in the evening.*

24. How will Prescott/SU/FR boards be represented on the school council meetings? All new representation? Open the vote for school PTA so we all have an opportunity?

*New elections and appointments for School Councils will be held in the fall at each school.*

### **Children:**

1. What if I can't find the bathroom?

*Tours will be provided to all students.*

2. Will the kids tease me at my new school?

*No! All schools have rules that do not allow this behavior and if you feel that you might be teased the principal and your teacher will help stop this behavior.*

3. How do I stay in touch with my old friends?

*There are a number of community activities that will help you to keep in touch in addition to sports programs. Also, pen pal buddies may become part of our writing program.*

4. How does my new school handle birthday celebrations?

*Each school and classroom teacher has a unique way to celebrate this important date.*

The following suggestions will be directed to the appropriate group. They were generated by the transition team.

### **Suggestions:**

1. \* Have PTA send out letters with notice of meetings for balance of year.
2. Send out a parent questionnaire (only to parents moving children ie, all of Prescott and attendance area Flo Ro) asking what they love and/or cherish at their current school from activities, specials, newsletters, volunteer groups, field trips, special programs, philosophy. This could be very positive for the schools to see and get a sense of what parent's value.

3. \*Swallow Union and Florence Roche communities (students, parents, administration, and teachers) should recognize that things will change for them too and new ideas or ways of doing things could change because we're creating 2 new schools with 200 more students to them. It should be looked at as building a new strong school culture at each school with a taste of all three schools in one.
4. Create some type of guidance group(s) to check in with these kids and/or create some type of activity that brings them together.
5. Keep many if not all of the Prescott students together in the same class since there are not that many heading to Swallow Union.
6. Some type of consideration for the older students to provide some type of continuity for the after-school programs and activities they have been involved with.
7. Have a small meeting at Swallow Union just for parents in the attendance area to discuss things and answer questions.
8. Have the teacher they are leaving write an information sheet to the new teacher so the teacher can get to know that student better.
9. Have the two PTA or APT groups meet and share ideas so we can have some common activities or share new and different ideas.
10. Have parents share what they value and like about their present school culture so all three schools can be represented at Swallow Union and Florence Roche.
11. Student Orientation and the Principal's Visit – all K parents of the other sections should be notified.

This has been done and this will be repeated on June 10<sup>th</sup>.