

# Boost For Recruiting At School?

By LARRY ROBINSON

COLTON -Word that the town government will officially receive a \$1 million grant to spruce up sidewalks and other parts of the community is likely to be seen as equally good news for the Colton-Pierrepoint Central School District, which is currently looking for innovative ways to draw more families with children into the area.

The Colton Town Council, the Pierrepoint Town Council and the Colton-Pierrepoint school board recently held a joint meeting aimed at trying to improve the community's appeal to families with children.

The meeting was held at the request of Colton school officials who say the district's shrinking student population could eventually make it hard to keep their doors open.

The school is projecting as few as 300 students in grades kindergarten through the senior class in just a handful of years.

The recent \$1 million grant approved for the town government by the state comptroller's office can not be used to benefit the school district directly because it is already earmarked for building new sidewalks and renovating the athletic field in South Colton.

However, Colton Town Councilman Joe Zelinski believes that using the \$1 million grant to upgrade sidewalks and to make other cosmetic improvements to the town's hamlets will indirectly help the school district by making the entire community more attractive to younger families with school age children.

"Anything that will improve the town itself is bound to help the school,"

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said Zelinski. "It's just one little piece but it's bound to help."

School and town officials in Colton and Pierrepont met earlier in the week to begin

brainstorming ways to help draw families into the township and prop up the local school's sagging enrollment.

The joint panel plans to hold more meetings in the future. Ideas being explored so far

include crafting a community brochure, exploring grant writing opportunities that could benefit the town in the form of bringing affordable housing to the town and bringing new jobs to the area.

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