

Building Plan Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 8, 2018
Board of Education Meeting Room
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Committee Meeting Notes:

Suzanne welcomed everyone and asked if everyone received the notes from our last meeting and does anyone have any questions.

Bert asked about enrollment numbers... there was a discussion

Craig gave a PPT presentation: An overview of the "State of Technology"

Discussion/Questions asked:

Karen made note of the "by the numbers" slide at the end of the presentation. Chris asked how many employees we had in Tech Department to support all the technology we have (4 total). Michelle asked about using tech for security in buildings (see note later in the notes on the discussion on using the district phones to make an all-call in the buildings). Craig mentioned our current sinking fund cannot be used for technology purchases and Mike asked when our sinking fund was to be renewed (2022). Jamie asked what do we see in the classrooms in the future and Craig mentioned the support/cost of projectors and bulbs - we see things like interactive tv's and more devices in the hands of students for more collaboration.

Tina handed out three packets for information/discussion among the group:

Washington Elementary - Kirk discussed wood chip replacement

Vacant Land Information -

Cost of operation - Combined MCH/MCM/RVH

District Maintenance & Operations information

There was a discussion among the group:

Paul asked: Can we get values from other districts to compare to what we have for operations & expenditures... Kirk says we can get what percentage breakdown from other districts. Chris asked if the costs were consistent from year to year. Tina said utility costs fluctuate so no. This year will be higher due to the winter.

Finance 101: Tina will present a "finance 101" presentation at the next meeting

Dawn gave out multiple handouts with information for the group to review and discuss:

Number of square miles each of the comparison districts has (transportation)

Operating Expenditures Definition

School of choice information: In-district, county (administered thru RESA)

County School of Choice...students coming into ECSD:

179 attend ECSD from outside the district

179+18: 18=Employees from outside the district who bring their kids to the district

Dawn mentioned that employees are 'automatic'... they don't have to go thru the process

Students that live in district, but leave/go to other schools:

Does not include local Catholic Schools. 190.

An observation was made at how many students went to Algonac

There was continued discussion among the group:

Algonac child care center was mentioned. Where do our students go if they withdraw from ECSD? One of the documents outlined some information on this.

Course offerings from our comparable districts were discussed. Grand Ledge didn't respond to Dawn's request for this information. Kim asked if some of the courses were online. Dawn didn't think they were. A lot of classes are tech classes at the particular school there was a discussion on. Kim mentioned you would have to split MCH/SCH and would also need to know if they do block scheduling.

Jess gave the student count for each school.

Mike asked if MCH & SCH could be broken out by sections (classroom size).

Suzanne said she talked with Dawn about taking students from scratch... without buildings... what would things look like for class schedules.

Jess asked about the capacity of the buildings... how many students can each building hold?

It was noticed that Jenison has some unique class offerings.

Suzanne mentioned to notice that we are looking at leveling off at 250 per class... 1000 for high school students.

Chris asked if it was just second semester Master Schedule? Kim mentioned that she thinks some classes have to be online.

Jeannie asked how many students attend Tech and how that would fit into our vision. Kim mentioned 40 to 50 in the morning and in the afternoon 20 from MCH. All students in the county go to RESA... a central location and that is how our county is setup. Paul asked if anyone that wanted to go to tech was left out. Kim said all students who asked have gotten in. Jason said RVH has 8 students that go to tech.

Suzanne said they do a 'slot swap' to fill any vacancies.

CTE Money was mentioned... noting that a teacher has to be certified to receive the money so you can miss out on money.

Jeannie asked if we can get building plans and see how the rooms are laid out and what is in the rooms.

Suzanne opened it up for group discussion:

Michelle mentioned dialog among her building staff about how to do an emergency all-call. Can we use technology. Craig talked about using our phone system to do all calls within a building and that we are in the process of setting this up and testing. Hopefully within a couple weeks we should see if it will work.

Bert was stunned at how low the numbers are getting at MCH... hard to sustain. Is the numbers down in other districts. Mike mentioned throughout the state numbers are down.

Chris asked what our critical mass number to make it economically feasible in regards to supporting our buildings, etc. Suzanne said if you need a number that we need to make a decision... we are there now... the decision needs to be made now. Mike mentioned that we also don't know when the next downturn will be or possible funding cut ie: \$400 per student. Dawn mentioned that we know the numbers and what the reality is going to be, and we need to make reality decisions based on those numbers. Paul mentioned that we cant be afraid to make the decisions

Bert mentioned that people don't know where we are with the numbers. Mike reiterated that. And that people don't know how schools are funded. Education piece is so important... we need to sell the next bond better. People attacked... why can't you live within your means. When you talked to a 65 year old for example they don't understand... it will take a lot of work to get the message out.

Suzanne mentioned that is is our voices that will carry out the message. We are going to start by talking about our district at board meetings... Kirk will start. Let's start piece by piece... things are great... not dire, past supts have done a great job of keep our budget in check.... But now we are at the point of all the adjustments that were made have been done. Now we need a strategic plan.

Mike mentioned that his feedback was that past committees did all the work and the board didn't follow through. As a board member he said we appreciate everyone and realize we need to make some decisions even though they may not be exactly as presented.

Suzanne mentioned to leave your name plate on top of documents and she will do binders for the group. The binders just haven't arrived yet.

Next meeting date and time: February 26th before board meeting. 4:30pm

Next meeting Tasks: Set some timelines now that most of the important has been given.

Chris asked about do we want to know what other committees are doing... Suzanne said she can attached the minutes from each committee to our email. Marketing and branding from a group from RESA was mentioned of something that will be done at the next communication committee meeting.

Adjourn: 7:58pm