

Building Plan Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 17th, 2018
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Committee Meeting Notes:

Suzanne reviewed the Board of Education/Districts Strategic Planning Process and the work to date. We worked with MASB (Michigan Association of School Boards).

Through the Strategic Planning process the four committees were created: MTSS, Communication/Marketing, Comprehensive Building Plan, PLC's.

Each member of the committee introduced themselves.

Each committee member received a green folder containing an agenda along with documents of additional information.

Dawn reviewed the agenda and goals listed on the documents in the green packet. The overall goal of the committee set by the Strategic Planning group is "(within two years) to create a comprehensive building plan with community input and all stakeholders to develop a bond proposal".

Suzanne asked the group to review the documents containing information of the five districts that the school board chose to compare to ECSD. This data included number of buildings, enrollment, household income, ACT scores, etc.

Lengthy discussions were held among the group members regarding these documents as well as a number of discussion questions asked by committee members. Some questions included: How were the comparison schools chosen, general questions regarding the information included on the documents, how do other districts handle alternative education, school of choice questions, number of physical buildings and STEM specific buildings.

Looking at the documents of information - Suzanne made an observation that other districts have dedicated early childhood center/facility, while ECSD does not. Dawn pointed out that our preschool programs are spread among multiple buildings in ECSD including Gearing, Eddy, and the Administration Building.

Suzanne discussed student enrollment information from the comparison information document. ECSD is continuing to face declining enrollment noting the lower incoming kindergarten numbers vs the graduating seniors. Dawn mentioned kindergarten roundup is March 7th & 8th. There was group discussion regarding enrollment over the years in ECSD as well as enrollment trends.

Suzanne mentioned that ECSD did a good job over the years of keeping our budget in decent shape even with declining enrollment.

One member commented that this is our opportunity to look at streamlining operations and to make us more efficient.

Kirk discussed deferred budgeting in operations over the years to save money... we are all now reactive to issues, not proactive. We have deferred maintenance on roofs, windows, etc, with

multiple roof leaks on a weekly basis. We are not on a sustainable path. Sinking fund is used for operations for repairs. Craig indicated that the same could be said for technology throughout the district.

Dawn asked Kirk to put together some building information and costs to maintain them over the last three years for the next meeting.

Tina explained the Sinking Fund that is used for operation repair. Current Sinking Fund expires in 2022 as it was a 10 year fund passed in 2012. There was further discussion among members regarding the history of the Sinking Fund. The committee requested a general school finance overview for a future meeting.

Suzanne commented that we are in a unique spot to create a comprehensive building plan. Our enrollment is declining. We need to look at every building and what is it being used for. We anticipate that this enrollment decline will continue and it will be the work of this committee to look at the data and do what is best for kids.

Suzanne asked some 'trivia' questions regarding the age of each of our buildings and the amount of land we owned. ECEC is our oldest building being built in 1922 followed shortly by Eddy in 1934. Our "newest" building is St. Clair Middle School which is now 17 years old.

Some tasks were outlined/discussed by Suzanne to the group:

Establish three goals (next meeting)

What information do the members want from Administration for future meetings?

Set future meeting dates and times

There was a discussion among members on the information and data that they would like to see for future meetings. There was a discussion on the Washington Life Center (Old Washington Elementary School). There was a discussion of having a board member on the committee (which there will be for the next meeting) and having more community involvement.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 8th, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Task: Set goals and review information provided by Administration

Adjourn: 7:47pm