



To: Attendees
From: Annie Bearss | AB
Date: September 28, 2016
Comm. No: 162116

Subject: Independent School District #623
Roseville Area Schools: Long Range Planning Process
September 20, 2016 Educational Criteria Committee Meeting #2

This meeting was held at Roseville Area High School at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 20, 2016 to continue discussing the needs of the District from the perspective of the Educational Criteria Committee.

Discussion Topics:

- A. A question was asked about the capacity diagrams in the presentation from the first meeting. Wold clarified that the capacity range represents the range of students per classroom from low capacity to high capacity so there may be some schools that are operating at high capacity and the amount of students per class would reflect that. The number listed in the range capacity is an ideal or target number.
 - 1. Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog said this range varies from year to year within each school as well as within grades. The average capacity this year was 24.72 students per class for grades K-6.
 - 2. Wold also brought up the issue of “structural capacity”; does the elementary school capacity match the capacity at the middle school level and high school level (which the buildings do accommodate)? The District has maintained roughly 600-650 students per grade level though this number may be affected by closing open enrollment. Currently, the District has closed enrollment for grades 7-12.
 - 3. Wold stated that the number of students per classroom used in the capacity calculations does not mean that a traditional lecture style is appropriate for every classroom in all the buildings studied, or the only way to consider capacity.
- B. The committee discussed the possibility of changing the grade configurations to alleviate the grade capacity pressure at the high school level.
 - 1. It was generally agreed that the District needs additional capacity at Roseville Area High School. This may become a higher priority as Roseville Area High School has already exceeded capacity.
 - 2. Wold informed the group that almost all other districts in the area have 9-12 high schools. The exception is the White Bear Lake School District, which has a 10-12 high school. Superintendent Aldo Sicoli stated that typically the concern with a 10-12 grade structure is that 9th graders often do not take their grades as seriously as when they are in a high school environment with older students. There are also logistical issues with this system for 9th grade athletics and specialty programs and electives that take place in the high school buildings.



- C. The group discussed the ideal middle school grade configuration.
1. When the topic of reorganizing the 6th grade was brought up, Aldo Sicoli stated that the District is currently gathering more data about this idea. Although the 7-8 middle school structure is unique, there have not been complaints about the current system. It is generally supported in the District.
 2. Wold informed the committee that it is the most difficult task to obtain information about middle school grade configurations because the organization systems vary so much for these grades, and there is no one study that definitively shows a better approach.
 3. It was generally agreed upon that if the 6th grade were to move up to the middle school level, it would be preferable to split grades 6-8 into two buildings.
 - a. It was discussed that at the middle school level especially, it is easier to give students the support they need to succeed educationally if there are smaller groups of students.
 4. The idea of another K-8 school was discussed.
 - a. Wold cautioned the group that having only K-8 schools at the District may polarize parents and draw people away from the District.
 - b. It was agreed that the variety and choice available within the District is unique and valuable to the District.
 5. There was a question regarding the educational success of 7th and 8th graders at Parkview versus Roseville Area Middle School. Peter discussed the different merits of evaluating students' proficiency versus growth from the previous year. In general, Peter stated that the growth is more indicative of how successful students are and that the growth of 7th and 8th graders at Parkview is comparable to those at Roseville Area Middle School.
 6. Wold informed the group that in general, few school districts have 6th grade centers (buildings that only house the 6th grade).
 7. Aldo Sicoli reiterated that in general there is not a lot of dissatisfaction about the current grade structure. The District is looking into ways to provide more options to better serve students that may have a greater impact than if the grade structure was reorganized.
- D. The committee briefly discussed the issue of future capacity issues at the elementary level.
- E. Wold summarized the discussion topics:
1. In general, there is not a lot of passion for restructuring the District to have a 6-8 grade configuration.
 2. If the District were to be exclusively K-8, it may be polarizing for parents considering the District.
 3. The amount of choice in the District (different grade structures, variety of programs and 'choice' schools) is a good thing.
 4. Most of the discussion was not about grade configuration, but how to best serve students. The spaces that do that may want to be the focus.
- F. Wold encouraged the group to consider how preschool fits into the grade organization conversation before the next meeting.



- G. For the next meeting, the District will bring any new data they have obtained regarding grade configuration.
- H. Wold will distribute meeting minutes following each meeting and will coordinate with the Communications Committee regarding methods of informing the general public. Independent School District #623 will also post meeting contents to the District website (www.isd623.org).
- I. Next Meetings:
 - 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM.
 - 2. Monday, October 17, 2016, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM.
 - 3. Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM.

cc: Vaughn Dierks, Wold

MV/ISD_623/162116/min/9.20.16 Educational