

Restructure Committee

Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2011

Opening:

The fourth meeting of the Restructure Committee was called to order at 6:35pm on Nov. 30, 2011 in Warrenton High School Commons by Dr. Gregg Klinginsmith. This was an open forum for the public

Present:

Travis Arndt, Beth Luecke, Wendy Guss, Erin Waters, Karen Gregory, Don Hodgson, John Cornell, Mark Winter, Debbie Current, Cresia Stark, Jennifer Grooms, Randy Cordell, Lori Wenzel, Christina Cosgrove, Tammy Reagan, Patty Russell, Lucy Swailes, Ron Greer, Heather Cox, Katie McDowell, Nancy Cobb, Elizabeth Swoboda, Shelby Bailey, Dr. Carrie Schwierjohn, Mrs. Bobbie Russell, Dr. Jill Schowe, Mrs. Jill Lawson, Dr. Tom Muzzy, Dr. Gregg Klinginsmith, Scott Costello, Bill Hawley

A. Focus

The focus of the meeting was to gather input from the community.

- Dr. Muzzy outlined the reasons for the restructuring
- Dr. Muzzy outlined information that was available to the committee and what steps they had taking up to this point
- The floor was then open to the public, in attendance, for comments

B. Objective

The objective was to obtain differing points of view on the top 3 configurations.

- Members of the community were asked to complete a forum comment card, then come up and state their opinion
 - Bill Miller- How does the K-4 renovation cost compare to the lost of ½ million dollars in funding – Dr. Muzzy – rough estimate of 200,00-300,000
 - April Moore - feels the K-4 is a bad idea, will have disconnect with that large of a school. More in favor of 2 2-5 buildings
 - Robert Shipes – doesn't want kids split up, it would be distracting. – Dr. Muzzy – look at neighborhoods schools - Mr. Shipes- been working at Briar Crest Elementary and we need to be finding ways to increase kids to where other counties are.
 - Flavia Everman – Is this a must? If content is still the same will they still excel? Not for breaking up what we have, need to find out why they are not excelling and we need to improve teaching.
 - Angela Day – Parental Involvement/family dynamic assistance – concern with only 36% coming in prepared – more family focus programs- correlation between schools and families
 - LeRoy Toebben - K-5 is best bet – families all in one building would help
 - Lisa Stiern - When are you looking to implement these changes? – Dr. Muzzy - Aug of next year. – Mrs. Stiern – Also, I worry about the animosity between children when put back together at the sixth grade level. The boundaries are also a concern.

- Christy Cornell – Concerns – retired school personnel on committee, community weren't even aware of restructuring committee, how thoroughly the other options were explored. Restructuring plan will still not fix the problems, still have 60% free and reduced, kids still not prepared coming in, kids still not prepared for the test. What are the hidden costs, will my kids qualify for busing? Will the still be programs available, how will technology, bus gifted teacher and supplies be handled, playground suitable at each school. Where will the funds come from?
- Sara Beth Vestal - Early intervention is needed, family programs, K-5 great idea- conversations between teachers so much deeper
- Melissa Green - What is best for students? What does research support? – Dr Klingensmith- research is very unclear- Mrs. Green - getting to see students I taught throughout will be great.
- Teresa Hunt - Option 1, 2, & 3 seem expensive to taxpayers. Why not consider 1 principal at each building and super principal - low cost to taxpayers in this economic climate and times. Why would we choose an option without knowing a cost? Books for library, PE equipment, locker, etc. use that money for Pre-K program where it seems to be the issue.
- Trisha Duval – School remaining same- son gets straight A's but falls short of proficient and advanced on test. Why is he not achieving?
- Cammy Maue – K-5, Children are succeeding with families are succeeding. As parents, we felt lost when transitioning, move on before we even know our way around the school. Attendance – we have great teachers but kids have to be there to learn, attendance will go up.
- Dr Muzzy - address question about cost- we have a 28 million dollar budget, I told the committee not to let 200,000.00 limit their ideas, I am not an advocate of their spending money but this is an important decision.
- Jodi Polston - I want to do what is best for our kids not adults. I will adjust to the change. I would benefit from having a second grade teacher down the hall.
- Hope Tinnin- I am a parent of 3 students in the district who have had wonderful teachers. We are (including myself) in 4 different buildings. Being in a K-5 would provide a sense of community. Families being involved will improve student achievement. Communication is good in all of our buildings. I can talk to my children's teachers anytime.
- Carrie Benne- What are other districts doing? What does the research best support K-4 or 2-5- I want to do what is best for the future.
- Mike Guss- What about curriculum? Have we studied other schools? What are they doing? – Dr. Klingensmith- Communication Arts has been rewritten for this year and Singapore Math has been approved for next year
- Jennifer Sommer – I see advantages of K-5 for sense of community and consistency
- Lori Garrison – How many hundreds of parents aren't here and should be?
- Rich Barton – We have great schools. Teachers from other district would not be raising their kids here if not. We do have good communication- I received 2 calls about tonight. There is a disconnect – we have to get our kids reading at grade level. These teachers do a great job. Great day to be a Warrior.
- Flavia Everman - Ditto Mr. Barton. Pre-school is great. Surround schools have them why can't we.
- Melissa Humphrey - Will we gain or lose teachers? When will new curriculum happen? Daughter had a few hard days and got her to school by saying you get to see coach Jodi, who will I be able to say next year when she goes to 2nd grade.
- Mr. Guss – Any improvement on the new curriculum – Dr. Klingensmith- we will test that with MAP test.
- Christy Cornell- number of people who turned out is ridiculous, communicating and dropping off at different schools is part of being a parent. No matter where

they are at this won't change. I hope as educators we are communicating with each other. This is our teachers' job.

- Trish Duval – We have a big family and would like the cousins to be together. Why would the k-4 not be K-5? Is it space? – Dr. Muzzy- we are confined by sq footage of the facilities, research does not support an elementary of that size. Farmington has multiple K-4
- Angela Day- if we do transition to one of these 3 options and we don't succeed in changing our scores or 2 of the schools do and one is still failing what then? – Dr. Muzzy – 2014 – 100% of student must be proficient or advanced – eventually nobody will make it. We keep coming back to adult issues. I want to raise the bar from 42% to 75%. In 3 years I expect us to be in the top 50% of schools in the state. If not I will not be here. My cell is on my business cards I am available 24/7
- Wendy Norwald – talking a lot about what parents want, what does the statistics say the best option is? – Dr. Klinginsmith- it is not clear. – Mrs. Nordwald – what are other schools like us doing and are we looking at mirroring them?
- Mr. Burns- when will this be decided? – Dr. Muzzy- BOE will make the final decision based on recommendations of committee.
- Sarah Estes- I see the transition to middle school and that is difficult. My children will have already made 2 transitions before middle school. Less transition would probably help student achievement. K-4 is almost absurd. Can we do something about student/teacher ratio
- Rachel Evans- Don't be afraid of change, research supports better achievement with less transition. Did like K-1 opt- less older kid influence, but like K-5 positive impact. What do we have to lose in trying something new? We may have more parent involvement when all siblings in 1 building. Highly encourage some Pre-k program to help students get ready academically. I vote for K-5.
- Billy Miller- What has other schools done in our situation?
- Dr. Muzzy- over time there has been growth, but we are still not improving as fast as other schools.
- Mr. Brown- the meeting will be on school tube in the next 2 days
- Laurie Wenzel- On behalf of the committee we want to thank you for the being here.
- John Cornell - There is not a single brick in the district limiting student achievement. We need to evaluate the true cause. I do not believe K-5 is it. Statistical data does not support it. Marshfield is 2nd highest in our peer group. We have to teach the students who are brought to us. We need to spend our money wisely to achieve the goals.
- Melissa Green - Under new leadership we are going and visiting other sites. Teachers are not saying that this is a magic wand. We are trying to improve and looking at curriculum.

Community input will be discussed by the committee at the next meeting. All committee meetings are open to the public.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm by Dr. Klinginsmith. The next general meeting will be at 6:30pm on December 13th in Black Hawk Middle School Media Center.

Minutes submitted by: Tammy Reagan

Approved by: Dr. Gregg Klinginsmith