

Enrollment / Elementary Sectioning Study Committee Meeting

November 30, 2011

Meeting Opened at 6:30 P.M.

Superintendent Zittegruen discussed the AGENDA for the meeting.

Group was asked about the definition of consensus. Can both options be presented to the school board as a committee recommendation? Yes.

Super majority for recommendation was ok with the group and was further asked that the board be made aware of the vote record if consensus was not reached.

Superintendent Zittergruen reviewed the committee purpose with the group and reinforced the fact that the board is expecting a recommendation on elementary sectioning.

Motion to Accept Minutes from November 16, 2010 Meeting Norton, Second Tjelmeland; Motion Carried

Option A Discussion

Discussion on Option A was held by committee.

Option B Discussion

Discussion on Option B was held by committee.

Comments and Discussion around the following questions.

- Curious to the pros and cons are for this plan?
- Slower phase out of Blairstown students from NorwayCenter to Keystone Center?
- Under the assumption that the transition of students would move forward in transition from centers.
- Like option to look at the future and not uneven class sizes and keep moving forward?
- Parents that do not want to move their students; How is that handled?
- Will we eliminate the choice? Are we prepared for this push back from parents if they chose that they do not wish to move their students?
- Have parents been offered options before?
- Parents will be upset if they have to drop students off at Van Horne and return to Cedar Rapids for work?
- My opinion in transition is that we will upset the balance?

- What is our goal here?
- Compare at this point or can we discuss plans? What is best for kids in large sections?
- You can switch and change options nobody wants to pump up the class sizes? Every year something different? Scramble and figure out what is next?
- Changes in 94-95 caused upset parents; Blairstown students will chose what they do regardless? Is this a choice?
- Very likely that we could be under 100 students in all elementary grade levels in short three years?
- Why would we not be very balanced if we had a choice?
- Infrastructure largest building and make it single sections? Is that selling out district? We will have empty classrooms?
- Survey parents? What do you ask? What would you hear?
- Formal feedback and informal feedback. All I have heard is negative feedback? Some have suggested that they would open enrolled?
- Parents working in Cedar Rapids and moving students?
- Don't think parents have enough information for feedback right now?
- Move to community where they need to live for their students to live and go to school?
- They all end up in Van Horne anyway?
- We live in Benton Community; we drive anyway?
- Move to Blairstown they knew they would go to Norway Center.
- We are a transition community?
- Should we offer an open meeting for parents to discuss options?
- Committee would be making a recommendation? Board and Administration will deal with the question of transition and choice per grade level and families?
- Parent meeting rationale for the decision the committee has made?
- Look at options and decide what is best for kids?
- Letter to families regarding the recommendation to the board.
- Board of Education makes the decisions?
- Public notice? How will this be provided?

- Blirstown folks in the dark?
- Information was provided to the students and families via newsletter home?
- How many families will be affected by this transition?
- Sibling splits; one at the Norway Center and one in Van Horne Center?
- Could families be offered the opportunity to stay with siblings at current centers?
- This does affect staff? What is their world going to look like next year? Tune out what happens to the staff?
- Financial discussion?
- Licensure, Certification, Retirements, Attrition?
- Board will make the final decision?
- Community of Atkins has 32 percent of elementary student enrollment?
- Allow siblings to stay in centers that are impacted by transition?
- Could all go to Keystone Center as an option?
- Some communities have not experienced changed some have not transitioned?
- School Bus transportation?
- What length of these plans and options?
- Slower on Kindergarten with Blirstown students?
- Discussed ending fund balances, debt service, special revenues.

Committee members voted by written ballot the recommendation to be provided to the Board of Education. 66 Percent in Favor of Recommendation A, 33 Percent in Favor of Recommendation B. The vote was 12 in favor of Option A and 6 in favor of Option B.

- Further discussion on whether to allow siblings of families in transition to stay at respective centers or move to respective centers? Was decided that this would remain an option of the board in consideration of committees voted recommendation.
- Superintendent Zittergruen will be drafting a letter to all families regarding committee recommendation to the Board of Education.

Motion to Accept Option A Kahle, Second Fisher; Motion Carried.

Adjourned 8:20 P.M.