

Facility Enrollment Committee Meeting

December 9, 2019

Brookfield East - Room 171

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Members in Attendance: Deb Nustad, Jen Roskopf, John Schnabl, Jordan Roberts, Kelly Ebbole, Kristin Sobicinski, Leanne Wied, Tom Gehl, Martha Purnell, Seth Hopfensberger, Sherry Yang, Tony Corragio, Spencer Mayhew, Tricia Rigg, Chris Thompson, Stephen Taipala, Saima Akbar

Absent: Joe Coffey, Jeff Wurster, Beth Kimmel

Agenda

6:00 - 6:10 - Welcome and Introductions

Chris welcomed the committee members, explained how they were invited (served on either of the last two district task forces; Enrollment Balancing or Facility Planning), and thanked them for their continued engagement. An opening activity had each member share in a small group who they were and what they learned about the district from their task force experience.

6:10 - 6:30 - A look back at the 2016 and 2019 Task Force recommendations

Chris gave an overview of the last two task forces that considered current and projected student enrollment and the impact on District facilities. Kristin Sobicinski presented an overview of the 10-Year Capital Plan and the impact of the five, 2019-20 capital projects on the Fund totaling nearly \$15.3 million. Committee members were asked to explain the purpose of the capital fund and its role in funding District priorities identified by the 10-year Capital Plan.

6:30 - 7:15 - Projections Analysis

Chris presented a summary of the 2019 3rd Friday Enrollment Count, and projections through the 2024-2025 school year. Based on several factors including a slower housing market and a shortfall in the past two projection cycles, the rate of growth has tempered but still shows a positive trend for all five years. Two key factors in the positive growth rate are higher than average birth rates and increasing market share at all grade levels. The current projections forecast Tonawanda as the only school targeted to reach optimal capacity (90% of total capacity) by 2024-25. Committee members were asked to share their observations of the data and ask questions about the projections.

7:15 - 7:40 - Scenario Planning

Three scenarios were presented for discussion, with possible responses associated with each scenario. Committee members were asked to discuss the scenarios and affirm there were no other scenarios the District should be preparing for at this time.

1. Growth Continues as Projected - Tonawanda approaches optimal capacity in the next five years.
 - a. Response Options: Re-balance or Additions, Re-Open Hillside, 5th Grade to MS
2. Growth accelerates due to market share and move-ins - two or three elementary schools near capacity.
 - a. Response Options: Re-balance, Re-Open Hillside, Additions, 5th Grade to MS
3. District Adds 4K - several elementary schools near capacity.
 - a. Response Options: Re-Open Hillside, Additions, 5th Grade to MS

7:40 - 8:00 - Recommendations

1. Continue with plans to rebuild the Capital Fund Balance in 2021-2022 in order to provide the greatest flexibility in the future should enrollment meet or exceed current projections.
2. Committee members were asked to identify any other recommendations.

The Committee summarized the review by stating until a significant disrupter is experienced (4k or economy slowdown), the short-term strategy of preparing to save for a possible facility solution was a good plan. If a disrupter becomes evident, it was suggested the committee should gather and begin to help plan for next steps.

Since the Committee has reached its recommendations for 2019, there will be no need to meet in January and the recommendations will be presented to the Board of Education at the January 14th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.