

To: Oneida School Community Advisory Committee

From: Steve Bocciolatt

Re: Meeting Notes – Meeting of March 21, 2023

Date: April 21, 2023

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Jennifer Armlin, Matt Archer, Erin Belanger, Alana Boylan, Alex Cafalone, Hannah Cleveland, Ian Farwell, Michele Farwell, Pete Gillander, Gretchen Ironside, Jennifer Jones, Meg Kelly, Nicole LaVeck, Adam Litwak, Kate Plunkett, Gary Reisman, Megan Rose, Megan Rice, Jim Rowley, Bernie Sharlette, Matt Shene, Cindy Smith, Stacey Tice, Kathy Zangrilli

Consultant: Stephen Bocciolatt

Resource: Matthew Carpenter

Location: Willard Prior Elementary School

Note: A building tour was conducted prior to the committee meeting by Alana Boylan, Principal of Willard Prior Elementary School.

1. Mr. Bocciolatt began the meeting with a review of the agenda for the meeting

- Introduce New Committee Member(s)
- Questions/Comments from Building Tour
- Review Minutes from 2/16/2023 Meeting
- Review/Update District Facilities Information
- Elementary Program
 - 1. Elementary Class Size
 - 2. Elementary Special Schedules
 - 3. ELA & Math Scores
- Public Questions/Comments
- Next Meeting Dates/Locations/Topics

2. New committee members

- Jessica Jones, special education teacher at Willard Prior Elementary School
- Gretchen Ironside - parent from Seneca Street Elementary School

3. Questions/Comments from the building tour

- Tour Feedback
 - Separate gym space
 - One story
 - Land to expand
 - Bathrooms in the classrooms
 - Very few shared spaces
 - St. Patrick's services are provided by WP staff
 - UCP space rental

4. Minutes from 2/16/2023 meeting were not reviewed for any possible changes.

5. Mr. Bocciaolatt gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the following items:

- Reviewed takeaways from committee meeting #1 and meeting #2.
 - Meeting #1: The district has seen declining enrollment and will likely continue to see enrollments drop. The study process will be open to ensure there is not a perception it is being conducted behind closed doors. The advisory committee was formed to assist the consultant throughout the process, but the final recommendation(s) will be the consultant's.
 - Meeting #2:
 1. Building tour of Durhamville
 2. The 2020 Building Condition Survey (BCS) costs for all buildings in the district identified approximately \$15,800,000 of work to be completed in the district's facilities. This dollar amount does not take into account the work being done in the current capital project.
 3. Two common approaches to organizing elementary attendance zones
 - a) Neighborhood concept
 - b) Grade Center Concept (Princeton Plan)
- Overview of the current Pre-K-5 school/grade organization
 - Review of:
 - Class size policy
 - Class size language in teacher contract
 - Review of class sizes: From the 2017-18 school year to the 2022-23 school year, the number of classroom sections were reduced from 48 sections to 40 sections with the average class size remaining at approximately 18 students per class.
 - 2017-2018 – 48 Sections
 - If all sections were combined, the average class size would be approximately 18 students per class
 - 2022-2023 – 40 Sections
 - If all sections were combined, the average class size would be approximately 18 students per class

- With respect to the current grade configuration study, there is not yet a recommendation as to what the final plan could look like, only an eye on what is right for kids, fiscally and academically.
- What is the timeline when a recommendation will be made to the district? The target date for a recommendation(s) to be made to the Board of Education is December 2023 with an implementation date for any grade organization changes to be made by September 2024.
- Who makes the final decision? A recommendation(s) will be presented by the consultant to the OCSD Board of Education for their consideration. Ultimately, a decision will be made by the Board of Education.
- Can we invite other schools/districts to future meetings to share insight on their process to a grade level configuration? The consultant will look into the possibility of having someone from another school district attend a future advisory committee meeting.

6. Upcoming School Community Advisory Committee meetings

- Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Seneca Street Elementary School in the gymnasium
- Thursday, May 25, 2023 at North Broad Elementary School in the gymnasium.

Note: Optional tours will precede each meeting and will begin at 5:45 pm. Meetings will begin at 6:30 pm and last no longer than two hours.

C: Matt Carpenter

Appendix A
Break-out Sessions on Current Grade Configurations

Group 1: Option 1

<p style="text-align: center;">Advantages</p> <p>(Academic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -consistency-comfortable with all staff -vertical collaboration -younger/older modeling -sense of community with peers they live near 	<p style="text-align: center;">Disadvantages</p> <p>(Academic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Collaborating amongst grade level colleagues -Inequities in terms of shared staffing -Horizontal curriculum alignment -Lack of diverse opportunities/mix of students
<p style="text-align: center;">Advantages</p> <p>(Logistics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Less transition -Bussing? -attending same school assemblies -Students able to walk to school -Attendance -Carpool opportunities -Variety size for larger variety of needs 	<p style="text-align: center;">Disadvantages</p> <p>(Logistics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bussing -Shared staffing -inequity in class sizes -Are neighborhood schools made up entirely of students in that area -differences in schedules

Group 2: Option 1

<p style="text-align: center;">Advantages</p> <p>- <u>Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Get to know whole families -consistency for families, students, teachers -support service providers are consistent -admin/counselors support staff can build relationships -it's familiar – no “valley of tears” 	<p style="text-align: center;">Disadvantages</p> <p>-<u>Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Single graded teachers have limited support/resources -Students tracked with same cohorts -less diversity: economic; special need based -fewer opportunities for Sp.Ed. to push in -fewer options for students to have other classrooms from year to year
<p style="text-align: center;">Advantages</p> <p><u>Logistics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Transportation -Attendance -easier on families with multiple kids -kids can still get to school if miss the bus -consistency of school events – easier for families 	<p style="text-align: center;">Disadvantages</p> <p><u>Logistics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -over-flow when students move from one school to another -sharing staff who need to travel (OT/PT/Speech) -scheduling duties (i.e. lunch, recess, bus, etc.) is difficult

Group 3: Option 1

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -relationships over time – students, families, staff -younger kids have older role models -public relations are easier -busing -culture/tradition/sense of pride -multi-generational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -different messages -zoning -stigmas -single graded building -lack opportunities for collaboration -socioeconomic grouping -condition of facilities -space -no unified idea of Oneida kids – not unified -different programming -creates havoc -busing -shared staff -no home buildings -spec. ed. classrooms/programs

Group 4: Option 1

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Family connection -Watch the kids grow -Transportation (parent) -Vertical Alignment -Mentoring (Student role models) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Consistency across grade level -Ability for service providers to specialize -Scheduling -Resources – per class, per grade level -Bus Transportation -Lack of Opportunity to break up/class lists/departmentalize