

To: Oneida School Community Advisory Committee

From: Steve Bociolatt

Re: Meeting Notes – Meeting of June 5, 2023

Date: June 16, 2023

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Matt Archer, Alana Boylan, Alex Cafalone, Holly Cafalone, Michele Farwell, Pete Gillander, Gretchen Ironside, Jessica Jones, Michelle Kinville, Nikki LaVeck, Kate Plunkett, Megan Rose, Megan Rice, Jim Rowley, Matt Shene, Cindy Smith, Stacey Tice, Kathy Zangrilli

Consultant: Stephen Bociolatt

Resource: Matthew Carpenter

Location: North Broad Street Elementary School

Note: A building tour was conducted prior to the committee meeting by Eric Coriale, Principal of North Broad Street Elementary School.

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

- Questions/Comments from Building Tour
- Review Minutes from 4/27/2023 Meeting
 - Review and discuss if any additional advantages and disadvantages should be added to the grade center grade configuration as outlined in the minutes.
- Transportation Update
- Review of Previous Options Discussed
 - Option: Status Quo (Pre-K- 5)
 - Option: Grade Center Configuration
 - (K-2; 3-5)
 - (K-1; 2-3; 4-5)
- Option: Closing an Elementary School
 - Small Group Discussion
 - Pre-K-5 Neighborhood Schools
 - Grade Center Configuration
- Staffing Overview
- Public Questions/Comments
- Next Meeting Dates/Locations/Topics

2. Questions/Comments from the building tour

- Tour Feedback (Tour of North Broad Elementary)
 - Lack of classroom bathrooms (One bathroom in room 108)
 - Lack of sinks in classrooms (sinks in room 108, 012, 100 -band room)
 - Kindergarten, art and music have sinks
 - Security - Basement classrooms have street level windows
 - SRO is working to have metal screens installed.
 - Temperature control on third floor – very hot
 - ADA - no elevator
 - Compliance issues with renovation
 - Gym is shared with cafeteria
 - Cafe tables in walls.
 - Landlocked (small land/site area)
 - Parking is an issue. Need St. Joseph's parking for staff
 - Good size classrooms
 - Nice playground and recess area, good size
 - Fenced in and grassy area
 - Heating and Cooling costs were reviewed. Costs similar for each building
 - Location of school – no room to grow, no bus loop/pick-up lane
 - Approximately 25 students walk to school
 - 15 walk home at night
 - Renovated office
 - School has a friendly, cozy feel
 - Easily accessible to town (field trips, walking club)
 - North Broad on city water/sewer
 - DV has a septic system

3. Minutes from 4/27//2023 meeting

- Pre-K-5 Configuration: Mr. Bocciolatt asked the committee to review and discuss if any additional advantages or disadvantages should be added to a handout from the minutes of the 4/27/2023 meeting. The handout listed the advantages and disadvantages (common themes) that were developed by four subgroups of the committee about the current Pre-K-5 grade configuration. One advantage was added: Less transition for the students.

- K-1; 2-3; 4-5 Configuration: Mr. Bocciolatt also asked the committee to review and discuss if any additional advantages and disadvantages should be added to a handout from Appendix A from the minutes of the 4/27/2023 meeting. The handout listed the advantages and disadvantages of a K-1; 2-3; 4-5 grade center configuration that were developed from two subgroups of the committee. No items were added.

Follow-up on this grade center configuration will be done at the next committee meeting to identify the common themes of the two groups and continue discussion, if any, additional advantages or disadvantages should be added to the list.

The rest of the minutes were not reviewed for any changes.

4. Mr. Bocciolatt gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the following items:

- Transportation Update
 - The length (amount of time) of bus runs were reviewed for the district (from the first pick-up stop to drop off at school).
 - Longest: Elementary: 85 minutes; Middle School: 75 minutes; High School: 78 minutes
 - Shortest: Elementary: 16 minutes; Middle School: 27 minutes; High School: 24 minutes
 - Average: 65 minutes
 - The average length of the longest time a student currently is on a bus to a specific building was reviewed, along with the range of the longest rides to each school.
- An outline on a map of district boundaries was shown as well as an outline of the district's four elementary attendance zones
- Purpose of Study/Critical Question
 - The purpose of this committee is to answer the question, "In considering a number of options, is there a better way educationally and fiscally to reconfigure the grades and facilities to provide a sound instructional program now and in the future?"
- Grade Configurations Options
 - Using 2022-2023 total student enrollment along with current and future # of sections, compared the current K-5 grade configuration and a K-2; 3-5 grade center configuration. There are 40 sections in grades K-5 for the 2022-2022 school year and 36 sections projected in grades K-5 for the 2024-2025 school year. The average class size would increase from 17.6 students to 19.6 students per class section.
 - Current K-5 Configuration Option (Four elementary buildings): In the current K-5 grade configuration, the number of class sections and students per building for general education classes vary by building with 6 sections/111 students, 10 sections/173 students, 12, sections/217 students and 12 sections/203 students in the four buildings.

- K-2; 3-5 Grade Center Configuration (Four elementary buildings): In a K-2; 3-5 grade configuration scenario, two of the elementary buildings would house grades K-2 and two elementary schools would house grades 3-5. There would be 9 general education class sections in each building with approximately 176 students per building.
- K-5 Configuration Option (Three elementary buildings): If an elementary school is closed, in a K-5 grade configuration with 3 elementary schools, there would be 12 general education class sections in each building with approximately 235 students per building.
- K-1; 2-3; 4-5 Grade Center Configuration Option (Three elementary schools): If an elementary school is closed, in a K-1; 2-3; 4-5 grade configuration with 3 elementary schools, there would be 12 general education class sections in each building, but depending on enrollment in each grade level the number of students with 225 students, 255 students and 224 students in the three buildings in each building.

Note: Class sections in all the grade configurations do not take into account other uses of classrooms in a building such as special education classes, special subject area classrooms (art, music, support services, etc.), Pre-K and UCP classes.

- Overview of each school building: reviewed age, square foot, grades housed, number of floors and students served.
- Reviewed summary of the number of full size classrooms in each elementary building.
- Breakout Session on closing an elementary school: Two groups
 - Pre-K- 5 Neighborhood Schools
 - K-1; 2-3; 4-5 Grade Center Configuration

Note: This breakout session was not done as planned at this meeting. It will be done at the next committee meeting.

5. Staffing Overview

- The number of staff positions by general title were reviewed, along with a breakdown of the number of building based positions in each of the elementary schools. Included in this information was a listing of the number of teacher positions including shared staff for each elementary school.

6. Questions/comments

- A question was asked if the district office could be moved into one of the elementary buildings and if it is possible to review how these spaces would fit in to a building. Mr. Bocciolatt said the architects had done a preliminary draft review of moving district offices into three of the buildings, but more work needed to be done in that area. A related question was asked about the estimated cost of selling the district office building. There is no estimated price for selling the administrative office building as of this meeting. Mr. Bocciolatt will follow-up with the district on this matter.

- Discussion about American Rescue Act (ARPA) funds was held. Mr. Rowley said these funds are only available for one more school year (2023-2024 school year).
- The target date for the implementation of any change in the district's grade organization is September 2024 (2024-2025 school year). Depending on the recommendation from this study, cost savings could coincide with the possible increase in expenses from positions no longer funded by the ARPA grant.

7. Upcoming School Community Advisory Committee meeting

- Thursday, September 28, 2023 at Otto Shortell Middle School in the gymnasium
- Thursday, October 26, 2023 at Oneida High School: Location to be determined

Note (1): An optional tour will precede the meeting and will begin at 5:45 pm. The meetings will begin at 6:30 pm and last no longer than two hours.

Note (2): The committee asked if summer meetings could be held. Follow-up summer meeting date(s) will be sent to the committee.

C: Matt Carpenter