Question and Answer Citizen’s Committee

1. **What financial impact do our open students have?**
The baseline funding for the 2019-20 school year is $9,646 per pupil. After deductions from the state, we are paid $8,482 per pupil. We currently have 205 open enrolled learners in our district which is 32.75% of our enrollment (this does not include preschool). Open enrolled learners bring in $1,738,810 to our district. This is equivalent to the cost of 28 first year educator contracts ($60,000/educator).

- PK—15 per section
- K-2—60/class
- 3-5—66/class
- 6-8—75 class
- 9-12—75/class

2. **What is our open enrollment by grade level?**

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<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Number of Open Enrolled Learners</th>
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3. **Why do people open enroll into the district?**
They are a variety of reasons specific to each family. Through conversations, it was shared smaller class sizes are a ‘draw’. We have multiple activities for learners to be involved in both academically and athletically. The school is big enough where learners can find a place to fit in. The school is small enough where everyone knows the learner’s name and who they are.

4. **Why personalized learning?**
The district made a choice to pursue personalized learning to help learners become choice ready. There is a misconception around what personalized learning is. To help clarify this misconception, the district held community meetings, site visits, observation days, and a task force was put into place during the 2018-19 school year. Personalized learning is about meeting learners at their individual level. It includes direct instruction, small group work, and independent learning. These are all things we have been engaged with for the past 5 years (and longer). The key to personalized learning is deliberate planning and practice by educators to meet the diverse needs of all learners. Every learner is different and that means a system which doesn’t value this diversity isn’t effective. Too many learners struggle with a system which is
not flexible. Concepts like seat time have been debated for years and there is little (if any) research to indicate the amount of time in a seat correlates to learner achievement.

5. **What are the transportation costs for the district?**
The district has three full-time routes (two large buses and one short bus) which costs $54,080 for salary and benefits. We estimate 100 miles/day for each route which is equivalent to 300 miles. This would be 52,500 miles/year. Diesel cost $22,300 with a per gallon cost of $2.55. These buses are replaced every 10 years which equates to a cost of $10,000/year. The state reimburses $1.11 per mile for a large bus. The small bus is paid $.52 per mile. This brings in $58,275/year. An estimate would be busing costs of just under $50,000/route for open enrolled learners.

6. **How do similar size school districts control open enrollment?**
They base their open enrollment decisions on available space and ideal class size. There isn’t a set criteria on how a district makes this decision. We have reached out to ND DPI to ask for data on how many districts don’t allow open enrollment. This information is not retained by ND DPI.

7. **How many open enrolled learners stay in the district?**
Most open-enrolled learners stay in the district through graduation. The number of learners who leave is so small (less than 10) we can’t identify the number for FERPA reasons.

8. **Why don’t families move into the district?**
There is a lack of affordable housing within the district. There is also a lack of land for building within the district. Some families have expressed interest in moving to the district but are limited by their current job requirements and how far they can be from Fargo.

9. **What co-curricular activities have been added since the building opened in 1999?**
The following activities have been added:
- eSports
- Girls’ Soccer
- Girls’ Softball
- Cross Country
- Robotics
- Paws Shop
- Destination Imagination
- Boys’ Golf
- Girls’ Golf
- Musical
- Missoula Children’s Theater
- Dance
- Lego League
- Math Club
- FCCLA (FACS)
- FFA (Agriculture)
- DECA (Marketing)
10. What staff have been added to increase programming?

The following staff members have been added since 2014:

- Music educator to specialize in vocal and instrumental
- College & Career Counselor
- Director of Personalized Learning
- Marketing Educator
- Performance Strategist (required by state law)
- Dean of Learners
- Elementary Educators (increase in sections)
- Spanish Educator
- Math Educator
- Science Educator
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Educator
- Para-Professional (7)
- Special Educator (1 FTE)
- Bus Driver (1 for short bus route)