

HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Pennington, New Jersey

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Future Planning Committee (FPC)
From: Liz Gutierrez
Date: May 2, 2014
Re: Meeting Notes of April 30, 2014

The meeting was convened at 9:00 am in the Board Meeting Room and adjourned at 11:00 am. (Two Committee members attended the meeting via WebEx. They were asked to put their devices on “mute” due to the high volume of feedback making hearing in the room difficult.)

Discussion / Action Items:

1. The minutes from meeting #3 and #4 were reviewed and approved by the Committee. The minutes, PowerPoint presentations and maps from the last meeting will be posted on the district website.
2. The Charter OGSM (Objectives, Goals, Strategy Measurement) was affirmed by the Committee.
3. There was a brief review of the presentations from the last meeting.
4. Dr. Smith presented new PowerPoints:
 - Current Student Population
 - 2014-15 Kindergarten Enrollment as of 4-24-14
(BT @ 34, HE @ 39, SB @ 50, TG @ 47 Total New Kindergarteners: 170)

There was a discussion regarding enrollment in each of the elementary schools. The impact of the addition of two STEM classes was discussed. The STEM classes will bring in approximately 6 – 8 students to Bear Tavern from each elementary school. 45 applications were received from in-district students, 4 students from out-of-district School Choice Program and 2 potential out-of-district School Choice students are undecided.

5. A decision was made to create a Data-Driven Sub Group. The sub group will meet several times ahead of the demographer’s visit on June 4 - they will study the data of home sales and students registered and determine how the statistics will affect HVRSD. The members of the Sub Group are: Neil Sefter, Bob Simone, Tom Ogren and James Creegan.
6. The impact of draft scenarios was reviewed:

- How many families will be affected by each scenario? How many schools or families would be required to change?
- Program – does change positively impact the educational program?
- Occupancy – does the scenario cause any school to exceed maximum (or minimum) occupancies?
- Financial – do the changes save money or cost money?
- Diversity – do the changes impact the current free and reduced lunch percent and/or racial percentage? Should diversity play a role in decision-making? Free and reduced lunch discrepancy - based on parent income (Bear Tavern has the most).

7. Several draft options were presented to begin the discussion, Dr. Smith noted that several options will be added based on committee feedback and interest.

Draft Options:

Option A – No changes

Option B – Close one elementary school and remove students to the three other schools

Option C – Restructuring schools to K-3 and 4-5

Option D – Full-day K in all elementary schools

Option E – Sending areas stay the same, district move out of Administration Building into a Bear Tavern

Option F – Redistricting – Moving school attendance to balance elementary schools (last done in 2007)

After discussing the pro and cons regarding Option B (closing one elementary school) a motion was made to eliminate Option B for the following reasons:

- Lack of sufficient space in the other buildings to absorb the students
- Cost of adding more bus routes would be prohibitive
- The closed building would still have to be maintained – not cost effective

The committee voted to eliminate Option B:

24 In favor

4 Against

1 Abstention

For Next Meeting: Dr. Smith will provide K-Extension numbers info. (Varies by School)

Dr. Smith will provide more details regarding options. (i.e. How many students/teachers are affected, Free & Reduced Lunches, transportation issues.) Additional options will also be discussed. (i.e. expanding grade levels, additional grade configurations, piloting full-day kindergarten, expanding pre-K. Dr. Smith will send out an email to the Committee to canvas the preferences for moving the May 28 meeting date.