

HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Pennington, New Jersey

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Future Planning Committee (FPC)
From: Liz Gutierrez
Date: June 18, 2014
Re: Meeting Notes of June 16, 2014

The meeting was convened at 2:00 pm in the Board Meeting Room and adjourned at 3:10 pm.

This was a special meeting of Future Planning Committee members that were interested in a session with demographer, Dr. Richard Gripp, ahead of his presentation at the Board meeting later that evening. The data in the demographic report will assist Committee members in arriving at solutions in planning the future for the district.

Dr. Gripp began the meeting with an introduction. Dr. Gripp is a statistician in the field of education and has worked with multiple school districts in New Jersey and New York.

Dr. Gripp began his presentation by stating that nine out of ten districts have declining enrollment and HVRSD is not unusual in that regard. He reviewed the 2014 Demographic Study he recently completed for HVRSD which included data tables and maps for Hopewell Borough, Hopewell Township and Pennington Borough and explained the methodology he used in his projections:

- Population Trends in the District
- Demographic Characteristics of the District
- Cohort-Survival Ratio Method Explanation
- HVRSD Enrollment History
- First Grade Replacement
- Birth Data (low birth rate in the district)

Dr. Gripp reviewed the effects of housing growth in the district and how the numbers may or may not change depending on the construction of various developments in the area. An analysis of housing turn-over discussed. He went on to explain:

- Enrollment Projections
- Projected Enrollment by Grade Configuration
- Projected Enrollment by Elementary School
- Analysis of Building Capacity

Several maps were presented comparing data from 2008 – 2009 to 2013 – 2014:

- Residential Locations of the Elementary Student Population
- Density of Students in Square Miles by Census Block

Question: Can the district sustain numbers to keep enrollment up? Dr. Gripp responded that it would take a change in demographics to change the enrollment – it takes about twenty years+ for declining enrollment to change.

Possible New Developments in the Area:

- Capital Health Site
- Pennytown
- Zaitz Boroughs