



2016 School Study Committee

**Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2016
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Harvey Education Center, Board Room**

Present: Ted Berryhill, Brian Bushey, Jessica Curtis, Lance Delbridge, Jon Droscha, Liz Evans, Josh Galloway, Matt Hall, Amy McVaugh, Patrick Meyers, Kerry Minshall, Christopher Mumby, Mitch Perrault, Mike Prelesnik, Sandy Smalley, Joe Strach, Mike Thompson, Sally Trout, Chris Waltz, Russ Whipple, Tim Williams, Chris Wright

Absent: Tim Ayers, Erik Cargill, Susie Disselkoen, Steve Duane, Shelly Fanson, Laura Fenger, Emily Kress, Jerry Schaffer

Also present: Superintendent Ron Drzewicki, Lori Hansen, Mike Kenney, Steve Merriman and Ted Moore

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Public Comment

There was one visitor who did not comment.

Request/Clarification Forms

In answer to a request for more information on the Harvey Education Center (HEC) uses today, there was a power point presentation led by Superintendent Ron Drzewicki and Child Development Program Coordinator, Lori Hansen.

In 2009, Cedar Street Elementary School was re-named to the James C. Harvey Education Center (H.E.C.) and re-purposed for a before and after school child care center and a summer daycare program as well as early childhood programs for preschoolers, Great Start readiness program and Head Start.

One wing of the building is used as the school district's administrative offices. Special education and maintenance offices are in the building, as are classroom space for speech, language, physical therapy and a social worker.

Approximately one half of all Mason kindergarten students have been through programs offered at H.E.C. Most of these programs are tuition based with funds for certain programs, such as Head Start, provided for by State and Federal grants.

To qualify for grant programs, families with students must meet certain government established income limits along with other requirements.

While numbers vary throughout the year, there are 120 to 150 students enrolled in before and after school program. The number of summer program students vary week to week, it is tuition based and offers special activities such as reading programs in cooperation with the library, computer labs and field trips. Child Development Services (CDS) Programs at the H.E.C. generate approximately \$200,000 of excess revenue over expenses.

Center teachers are trained at the Ingham Intermediate School District in the area of literacy. Staff evaluates and works with students based on what programs are needed to ensure a child is ready to transition into kindergarten.

Children are in the building from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. week days. There are nearly 300 children provided services at varying and sometimes multiple times of the day.

There was discussion as to how better inform the public about the current H.E.C. uses. Areas cited as needing emphasis included: importance of center programs, revenues generated and the building is used to capacity.

Chairperson Chris Waltz assured committee members that each request/clarification form would be addressed within committee meetings.

The dinner break was from 6:15 p.m. to 6:35 p.m.

Chairperson Waltz called the session back to order and outlined eight topics identified at the Aug. 24, 2016 committee meeting as key needs of the school district. Topics were overcrowding, STEM/robotics, facility audit items, technology, transportation, parking/traffic/safety, insufficient classroom sizes, insufficient sinking fund to pay for needed repairs to current school facilities.

Committee members were asked to identify the top three need areas from this list, narrowing it down to elementary overcrowding, safety and security of students and physical plant needs within all buildings.

It was emphasized that this list is tentative and meant to guide discussion for this meeting only. Brainstorming ideas on possible ways to solve issues contained within the three selected categories included:

Group #1

- Make the elementary buildings larger
- Move 5th grade to the Middle School
- Move K and first grades to H.E.C.
- Add portable buildings
- Re-open HEC as full service elementary building

Group #2

- Add new K-5 building
- Add more rooms at elementary buildings

Group #3

- Re-purpose HEC as an elementary building
- Add a second story to HEC building with administrative offices moved to second floor
- Ask voters to approve an increase in the sinking fund tax levy for prioritized facility needs and repairs

Group #4

- District needs childcare and readiness programs to continue. If administrative offices moved there would be room for existing programs as well as some added kindergarten classes
- If this were to happen, HEC should become a school to meet needs of 21st century, not just the Cedar Street School of years gone by
- Create a 5th/6th grade wing at the Middle School making a school within a school - one with its own entrance and campus
- Tear down HEC and build an all-new Cedar Street Elementary School.
- Build a new high school

Ted Moore of Moore Trosper Construction said a second floor at HEC would only be possible with an elevator which costs in neighborhood of \$150,000. Even so he said going up one story would be cheaper than building an all-new building.

A lengthy discussion continued around how best to inform voters about the school district needs, what particular needs voters would approve, should the committee work toward a recommendation for a May election date, should the committee recommend a higher sinking fund levy to systematically address facility problems over time. No decisions were reached.

Future Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Beginning in October, meeting dates will be selected via a Doodle Survey.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.