



# 2016 School Study Committee

**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 25, 2016**  
**5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Harvey Education Center, Board Room**

**Present:** Tim Ayres, Ted Berryhill, Brian Bushey, Erik Cargil, Lance Delbridge, Susie Disselkoen, Jon Droscha, Steve Duane, Liz Evans, Shelly Fanson, Josh Galloway, Matt Hall, Amy McVaugh, Patrick Meyers, Kerry Minshall, Christopher Mumby, Mitch Perrault, Mike Prelesnik, Sandy Smalley, Joe Starch, Mike Thompson, Sally Trout, Chris Waltz, Russ Whipple, Tim Williams, Chris Wright.

**Absent:** Jessica Curtis, Laura Fenger, Jerry Schaffer

**Also present:** Superintendent Ron Drzewicki, Mike Kenney, Steve Merriman, Ted Moore

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Approval of Minutes**

A change will be made to the configuration discussion top 3 choices to add the option number to the description.

Minutes approved with those changes.

## **Request/Clarification Forms**

Chair, Chris Waltz provided a status of the request/clarification forms and which items would be included in the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and which were outstanding. There were no committee questions on the request/clarification form items.

## **Buses**

Kevin Doty, Supervisor of Transportation, provided an overview of the school buses. Several years ago the district had a 10 year replacement cycle and replaced 3 buses a year. Grant money had been used to help pay for some buses but when that funding ran out the district changed to a 12 year bus rotation. It usually costs around \$80,000 to \$90,000 to replace a bus. More recently, the district needed to replace several buses and looked into leasing options. General funds are used to lease a bus and bond funds could be used to buy a bus. The district is currently in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3 year lease and will need to lease 6 more buses next year. The district currently leases 10 buses at a cost of approximately \$125,000 to the general fund. Kevin explained it is good to have approximately 6 spare buses in case of break downs and for athletic trips.

## **Community Input Subcommittee Report**

Vice Chair, Sally Trout provided an overview of the subcommittees work in relation to community input. Sally thanked the subcommittee members, Sandy Smalley, Josh Galloway, and Patrick Meyers. Sally explained that it would be good to get public input on 1 to 2 configuration options. Possible options to seek input include:

- Paying for a professional poll of community. Costs of polling the community with a large representative sample ranges to \$13,000 – \$20,000. The School Board has considered conducting a poll in the past but has not authorized this yet.
- Conducting a phone survey which would be less expensive than polling the community. Doing a phone survey would include costs for hiring someone to conduct the survey.
- Set up a focus group. This would include paying for this service and the focus group attendees are compensated for their time.
- Utilize Facebook
- Utilize the news media.
- Informal focus group with personal invitations. Get diverse representation from community.

The sub-committee preferred conducting a professional poll.

## **Post Bond Survey Follow-up presented by Steve Duane**

Steve provided an overview of Mason Public School district age population distribution. Overall there does not seem to be a major demographic shift over a 5 year period.

## **Configuration Options**

Ron provided an overview of some administrative thoughts on the 5 options.

Option 1 (No grade configuration changes at any existing buildings. Remodel all existing buildings.)

With no configuration changes there would not be disruption to students. If the district has any growth in the elementary grades there would be expansion needed at one building and one building could grow to around 600 students.

Option 2 (Move all kindergartners to HEC and administration stays at HEC)

Utilize HEC with more capacity and provides a connection for kindergartners with early learning. However, this option has younger aged students for one year at the HEC and then dispersed to other schools.

Option 3 (Move all 5<sup>th</sup> graders to Mason Middle School)

This option removes around 80 to 85 students at each elementary building resulting in a total per building of around 400 students. This option provides an advantage of having grade level teachers working together and easier balancing of class sizes. At the middle school the total students would be close to 1,000 if 5<sup>th</sup> graders are moved to this building. The social and emotional development of 5<sup>th</sup> graders compared to 8<sup>th</sup> graders is very different and would need to be considered. This option would probably need to include an additional gym, café, art room, and, specials room. The current middle school building does not have enough space to add another 300 students.

Option 4 (Move kindergartners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders to HEC)

See comments for option 2.

Option 9 (HEC, Alaiedon, North Aurelius K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade building and HEC as early learning and Steele as 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade). (Or any building could be the 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade building.)

This option may result in community dislike of converting an existing elementary building to a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade building. This option would result in approximately 325 total students per K-3 building and the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> building with approximately 485 students at HEC or Steele (for example). It was recommended the 4-5 building at the HEC site.

Option 2 and 4 not as favorable.

The committee was asked to discuss in small groups the 5 options and report out to the entire committee.

**Middle School & High School Renovations**

The committee will move this discussion topic to the next meeting. The Superintendent gave a highlight of some needs/ideas from the last bond. Middle school additions/renovations for science, wood shop, robotics, and STEM. High School additions/renovations for science, wood shop, STEM, robotics, athletic multi-purpose room, and visual & performing arts.

### **Public Comment**

Michael Koot of 425 N. Barnes thanked the group for volunteering their time to work on this project. Michael shared a concern that there seems to be a lot of discussion around the cost of the options. He requested the group consider other items such as the educational advantages and pros/cons for each option. Also, would there be options to add advanced math or other academics for various grades with any of the solutions. He shared some educational resources indicate there can be developmental concerns when kindergartners are at one school. Also, smaller schools and lower teacher to student ratios tend to yield higher academic achievements. Additionally, reducing the number of transitions a student makes leads to higher performance except transitioning from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Next Meetings**

November 10<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>