

Minutes
Board of Education Special Meeting
March 19, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Christopher Lent, Kathy Tolsdorf, David Crim, Gary Littlefield, James Chakulski, and Linette Dooley

Absent: Karin Vertefeuille

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Barbara Wilson-Student Services Director, Tom Boardman, Tom Doyle, and Steve Piro

- I. Call to Order - Chairman C. Lent called to meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- II. Audience of Citizens – no comments were received at this time
- III. Make Up Days

Mr. Fearon reached out to staff to check their availability to make up days during the April vacation and at the end of the year. He has spoken with other districts and carefully reviewed the options available to make up the 11 days missed so far this school year. Considerations for extending the school year past June 22 included staff and student availability, warmer classrooms and the inability to make up lost instruction time at the end of the year.

Members discussed the pros and cons of taking days from the April break or adding days to the last week of June.

D. Crim MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED to make June 22, 2018 the last day of school and any additional missed days to be taken from the April vacation, beginning with Monday, April 16th.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- IV. Work Session for April 23, 2018 Future Needs Committee Public Forum
Members reviewed the draft Agenda and documents which included an outline of the history of the Future Needs process, its purpose and future steps.

Communication concerning student achievement from both Bolton High School and E.O. Smith High School was also reviewed. The BOE felt the information was very informative and useful and noted students are doing well at both high schools.

Mr. Piro asked if the cost of maintaining the facility if middle school students are moved out of Porter has been considered.

Mr. Fearon said closing a section of the building is not a cost savings to a district. Districts only see savings when an entire building is closed.

Clarification of high school tuition costs was requested.

Mr. Fearon said the overall tuition cost of a high school student can fluctuate dependent upon enrollment and student needs. High school per pupil costs can be estimated to be as high as \$40,000. The cost includes not only annual tuition but also transportation, special education costs and additional services.

Mr. Boardman asked what prompted the consideration to tuition out middle school students and if this was the initial question which started this process. He also asked how far along the process is.

C. Lent responded that notification to contracted high schools of our future intent is needed by June 2021. Middle school options were included in the process due to declining enrollment and concerns for maintaining programming. Since the initial process began, enrollment has steadied and actually been slightly above projections. Programming at the middle school level has also been reworked.

Mr. Fearon said the question of being able to continue to maintain a competitive middle school prompted the discussion to be addressed along with the high school contract considerations.

K. Tolsdorf was under the impression that initially sustainability of our middle school at Porter was the initial question. She felt if middle school students were tuitioned out, it could affect our high school choice. Specifically, if middle school was tuitioned to one school then it would make sense to have one high school. Regionalization was also part of the discussion earlier in the process.

D. Crim recalls the process to have evolved from the Board looking at the available options which included maintaining the same course, looking at high school options and then, depending on possible high school changes, looking at middle school changes.

L. Dooley recalled the process in a similar manner.

K. Tolsdorf doesn't want to consider only looking at the high school question and didn't recall the process resolving in this manner.

C. Lent referred to notes of April 25, 2017 in which the Board identified the essential question as, "Do we want high school choice past 2022?"

After a lengthy discussion of the history and intent of the process, members agreed the focus of the meeting scheduled for April 23rd should pertain to two essential topics of (1) High School Choice 2022 and (2) Middle School Plans. The board hopes to dispel any rumors and answer questions and concerns from the public and to gain information for future focus groups.

V. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel and Related Matters

G. Littlefield MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and related matters at 8:16 pm.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, G. Littlefield SECONDED to invite Mr. Lol Fearon to join executive session.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

G. Littlefield MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to leave executive session at 9:38 pm.

G. Littlefield MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to appoint a Superintendent Search Committee consisting of all 7 members of the Board of Education.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

VI. Adjournment

D. Crim MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tolsdorf, Vice Chairperson/Secretary