

Communications Committee  
School Support Groups Roundtable “Sustaining Dynamic Public Schools”  
February 3, 2017

Present

RCSD: Deirdre d’Albertis, Laura Schulkind, Deirdre Burns, Joe Phelan, Tom Burnell, Steve Jensen

RSF: Jen Hammoud, Andrew Schulkind

CultureConnect: Christine Welker, Ron Carleton, Norm Magnusson

ENTA: Pat Sexton

JP and TB shared enrollment trend data with the group (loss of 200 students K-12 in past 10 years). Enrollment at 1047 students as of October, 2016.

Graduating this year: 106 students. Coming in K this year: 60 students

Also, explained challenges of the tax cap, how state works and combined wealth ratio.

DB noted that our programming and curricula is at a very good place. We offer a strong program K-12 with many options for our students. We take great pride in our schools.

Questions raised - how might we address these challenges? Is there support for continuing our robust programming? Is there larger community support beyond parents?

Discussion ensued over the various issues raised with many good questions and comments including:

- what are the parts we can impact? community support
- schools are “the heart of a community” - it’s a communication issue
- parents of young children come here for the schools
- use of on line education?
- this could be an opportunity - need to work with larger community- Chamber of Commerce and local government to garner more support for the schools , maybe even in grants.
- it’s a communication challenge
- need to attract young families - try to understand why more families aren’t moving here
- share staff with another district?
- success starts and ends with teachers
- people don’t want to lose the extras - it is attractive to families who come here
- maybe more interdisciplinary approach to deploying staff?
- need to highlight what makes our schools special - what distinguishes us? turn this into a positive story
- need to connect with community/realtors/village and town officials
- cannot forget the many students who have particular needs
- goal should be to maintain the program
- would be useful to have an umbrella organization that supports the schools
- a digital or paper informational brochure would be useful

Many thanks for a great discussion.

Submitted by Deirdre Burns