

4.1.1

Long Range Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2017

Attendees: Deirdre d'Albertis, Diane Lyons, Laura Schulkind, Joe Phelan, Tom Burnell

Citizens Advisory Committee

Given community interest in this work, the committee discussed the usefulness of a Citizens Advisory Committee for targeted tasks. Could this type of committee provide what we need? District Policy 1210 already allows for the use of such committees, but it is critical to determine what the Advisory Committee's charge would be. Would it be prudent to engage different Advisory Committees for different tasks? Given the breadth of talent in Rhinebeck, how can we best engage our community?

At the next LRP meeting, the charge for an initial Advisory Committee will be developed for Board approval. It was agreed that it should be set up much like the Facilities Task Force - an open invitation to participate in a set number of meetings with a specific agenda. The timing to launch such a committee seemed best after mailing the informational postcard to all District residents. It is important that every voter is aware of this process. The language for the postcard will be developed at our August 31st meeting.

Rhinebeck vs Red Hook

Why do new families choose one school over the other? Why would families switch? Certainly, housing is a big component over which we have no control, but the committee is interested in learning the educational reasons for such a decision. We will invite area realtors to meet with the committee to better understand their clients' needs and wants. Is there something that the District could develop for use by local realtors to promote the District?

Communications Plan

- Info Postcard - to be mailed after the start of school (mid-Sept). This postcard will give voters some general information about the LRP process and offer ways for people to get involved; via email or in person as a committee participant or at Board meetings.
- Surveys - as with the SST committee, we will use multiple, targeted, 1-3 question surveys that can be completed in under 5 minutes to gather information on particular topics
- Listening Sessions - dates to be determined. These will mirror our "Coffee with the Board" sessions with targeted topics for discussion. Sessions will be held in the am & pm for optimal participation
- Realtor outreach
- additional outreach methods to be determined (Communications Committee?)

Administrative Meetings

- Ed Davenport & John Kemnitzer will be invited back in the Fall to discuss questions that arise based on the committee's work
- Emily Davison will join the group in early September to review the state of Special Education and how she sees our program evolving in the next 3-5 years
- Steve Boucher will be invited to discuss the long-range plan for Athletics in Rhinebeck. What is our philosophy around sports offerings? Are sports mergers better than cancelling certain teams for lack of interest? What is and/or should be that threshold? (This is an important question for our community as well)
- Sheldon Tieder will be invited to review our facilities needs
- Steve Jensen and Marvin Kreps will be invited to review curricular impacts and technology needs into the future

- Non-Instructional staff will be invited later in the process as we gain a better understanding of our program needs/impacts

The committee will also review shared services opportunities with other Districts. What could the impacts on program and staffing be? Are there examples we can look to?

State Mandates

It is important to fully understand all state requirements placed on public schools. Many of these drive the annual budget. Moving forward, the committee will explore, in depth, state mandates for Curriculum, Special Ed, Athletics, Transportation, Facilities, Technology, Food Service, School Configuration (i.e. K-6; 7-12 program vs K-5, 6-8, 9-12), Administration and others to be determined. In this way, we can build a “bare bones” budget to illustrate what we must do vs. what we choose to do. It is the committee’s hope that comparing this base budget with our current budget will help determine where our choices lie.

What does Education Law say about parental fees for services i.e. athletic uniforms, club participation, etc? We are mindful that charging fees limits equity of access so should be fully understood before consideration.

Tom and Joe noted that a number of years ago, a District-wide organizational chart was created. It is time to update it both District-wide and by Building-level to gain a better understanding of how, when and where our staff is deployed.

Tom shared his work in generating our “statistical neighbor” schools. He identified 23 Districts across the state with similar enrollment and combined wealth ratios (CWR) between 1.25-3.0. Rhinebeck’s CWR is 2.0. He will continue to refine this list by using actual BEDs data for enrollment and will dig deeper into special education expenditures and population. He also reported that ASBO has been on summer vacation. Once they are back in the Fall, he will continue his review of long-range planning software options.

Standing Committee Participation

The LRP committee will work to develop tasks for the Board’s standing committees at the next August meeting.

Meeting Schedules/Agendas:

8/31/17 - post card development, standing committee tasks, Advisory committee charter

9/13/17 - Emily Davison Sp. Ed. review

9/25/17 - TBD

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Board of Education shall, at its discretion and in accordance with state law and regulation, appoint Citizens Advisory Committees of representative residents of the district to meet with the Board to provide advice and reaction about important matters before the Board which may have special significance for the community.

Each citizens committee organized by the Board shall be appointed and discharged by official Board resolutions. Resolutions appointing such committees shall state specifically the scope of the work of the committee.

Appointments to Citizens Advisory Committees shall be on the basis of interest, experience, expertise, and concern. No one shall be appointed as a representative of a specific group or area, unless it is the express purpose of the Board to have all areas of the community represented, in which case the Board will, in its discretion, appoint representative members of every such group or area. The Board shall make every effort to form a committee that is representative of the entire community, including representation from building and district planning teams.

Committees shall report all suggestions and recommendations to the Board and Superintendent of Schools prior to public release. Final reports shall be delivered to the Board at a meeting scheduled by the Board to receive the report.

The Board may accept, reject, or return committee recommendations for further study. Any action stemming from committee reports is the responsibility of the Board. Publicity, or the release of information, concerning committee findings shall be the responsibility and the prerogative of the Board. Advisory committees shall be discontinued upon completion of their assignment(s).

Cross-ref: 2250, Board Committees
4315.1, AIDS Instruction
4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities
6110, Budget Planning

Ref: Education Law §§4402; 4601
8 NYCRR §135.3(2)

1st Reading 1/11/00
2nd Reading 3/12/02
Adopted.