

Strategic Planning Committee

12/10/2020 Minutes

Attending: Tom Burnell, Albert Cousins, Mark Fleischhauer, Diane Lyons, Christine Natoli, Jaclyn Savolainen

- CDEP
 - **Discussions:** RTA leadership has proposed a team for the CDEP committee.
 - **Decisions:** The Board needs to choose a representative for CDEP. This committee recommends providing substitutes for CLS CDEP participants for Wednesday meetings.
- COVID Testing
 - **Discussions:** The committee discussed various possible methods and scenarios for providing COVID tests to staff and students, either proactively or if the District is required to do so. Some of the factors discussed were insurance coverage, location of testing, costs to the District, licensing requirements, and individual versus pooled tests.
 - **Decisions:** Albert will research options for on-site versus off-site testing and will report back. This committee expressed preferences for the District to offer testing proactively, for having an external provider handle the medical side, and for testing to occur outside of school buildings or off-site.
- Education Law Pandemic Planning
 - **Discussions:** A new report required by the State will be due in the Spring. The District will need to define “essential workers” and may need to stagger schedules. The District Safety Plan must be updated to reference health concerns and shared with the unions by Feb. 4. The federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act is expected to retire on Dec. 31, which will impact how pay and childcare leave allowances are covered for people who are out.
 - **Decisions:** The Board will have to approve the updated District Safety Plan. This committee recommends that the District require anyone who tests positive to quarantine/isolate, even if they are deemed essential workers. Albert will update the Board when he finds out if the Families First Act is extended or not, and what the implications will be.
- Budget
 - **Discussions:** Tom reported on the new tax growth factor (1.36%).
 - **Decisions:** This committee recommends the District communicates with the community that, because of the assessment (new tax growth), it is possible we will see a tax levy over 2% next year. The committee agreed with the proposed division of Budget presentations as listed below, which would allow for each meeting to focus on functional areas of the budget. The goal for revealing the total budget would be sometime in March.
 - O&M, Transportation, Debt Service (1st Feb mtg)
 - Athletics (2nd mtg)
 - School Programs (3rd mtg)
 - Special Education (3rd mtg)
 - Curriculum (4th mtg)

- Revenues (depends on State Aid runs)
- Enrollment
 - **Discussion:** Projected enrollment numbers for next year's 4th & 5th grades are high, which may mean 24-26 students per classroom if there are three sections in each grade. Staffing will be discussed in upcoming meetings with the building administrators.
 - **Decision:** The committee and the Board will follow this topic closely.
- DC BOCES Board membership
 - **Discussion:** The Dutchess County BOCES board is seeking nominations for membership.
 - **Decision:** Anyone who is interested in serving on that body should let Albert know.
- RCSD BOE candidates
 - **Discussion:** BOE candidate signatures (54 signatures vs. 25 signatures) - may not need signatures this year because of COVID. Diane's and Mark's terms will expire in 2021.
- Negotiations
 - **Discussion:** David Shaw has been invited for a general overview meeting on 1/14/21. We anticipate 5 BOE members may be involved so that would require an executive session.
 - **Decisions:** Ad hoc committee meeting dates need to be set. Diane, Steve, Mark, Megan, Matt: please check availability to meet with David Shaw on 1/14.
- 21-22 District Calendar
 - **Discussions:** Many of the annual calendar events (like Regents testing) may shift. The District is waiting for announcements from NYSED regarding calendar guidelines and requirements. It is unclear whether the District will be able to schedule remote days for other reasons next year but that could present an interesting opportunity for professional development and weather-related contingency plans.
 - **Decision:** The District Office will update the BOE as information is available.
- Standardizing software across buildings and/or District
 - **Discussion:** Many new software programs and apps have been adopted quickly this year but there hasn't been a central accounting and approval process.
 - **Decision:** This committee agrees with the recommendation that the District develop an approval process (with teacher input) to streamline and track the tech being used throughout our schools.
- Legislative Priorities
 - **Discussion:** The committee discussed the recent meeting with Didi Barrett.
 - **Decision:** This committee recommends that upcoming meetings with other legislators focus on unique RCSD priorities, issues, and success stories (while acknowledging advocacy efforts of other organizations and looking for points that align with the legislators' particular interest areas).
- MAT and DeFile reimbursement in case of a long-term closure
 - **Discussion:** Tom is looking into bussing contract questions and whether it makes a difference if the County or State mandate a closure versus if we close proactively.
 - **Decision:** Tom will report back.
- SRO Contract
 - **Discussion:** Rhinebeck Village has proposed a significant rate increase for SROs.

- **Decisions:** The committee requests that the Village provide specific information about their insurance increases and how that ties to the rate increase for SROs. This committee also expressed interest in proposing a steady, yearly, percentage-based increase (in order to avoid huge jumps in a cycle) or possibly a reduction in hours.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 14, 5:15 pm

Respectfully submitted: Jaclyn Savolainen