Long Range Planning Committee Minutes  - September 17, 2019

Attendees: Stephen Jenkins, Diane Lyons, Joe Phelan, Jaclyn Savolainen

Administrators' Retreat

Joe reviewed what was covered in the Administrators' Retreat. The committee expressed concern that the administrators did not accomplish enough regarding exploration of what a K-6/7-12 model would look like. What would the administrators want in an ideal version of that model? How could we improve opportunities for our students? How could we make a new model that is even better than our current model? If we were to start from scratch in designing a 7-12 school, what would we do? How do we keep teachers whole, keep electives robust? What would the structure be, what would it cost, what staffing would be required? How would departments, teams and clubs work? What fundraising would we need? What roles would need to be filled that our staff could grow into through professional development? If we are going to go to a new model for our buildings, when is the best time to do so? Would there be some elements that would be gradual?

Unfortunately, the allotted time did not allow for all of the retreat goals to be reached. However, at least one additional session has been scheduled, with more sessions to be added as needed, to address the specific issue of K-6/7-12 reorganization.

It is a goal to have such a model developed in full by December in order for the Board to be able to determine if it is the best course of action moving forward (in time to meet District needs when the smaller class sizes reach the BMS/RHS building in a few years). There is no presumption that the District will make the decision to change models; but of the various options that have been explored, the K-6/7-12 model seems to be the most workable, so that is the one that administrators should fully flesh out.

Joe believes that it is still possible to pull together that information by December by setting aside time for half-day administrator meetings as necessary.

Draft of Audit Report on Administration

The committee was disappointed with the draft of the audit report regarding administrative staffing levels. The Audit and LRP committees wanted that audit to answer the question of whether our administrative staffing levels are appropriate for what the district is currently doing, but the draft report went off topic into other options. Additionally, Joe reported that the administrators did not feel the lists of their duties and responsibilities were adequately described. The committee noted that they do not expect every single activity to be covered in the list of responsibilities – just the big and important ones.

The committee was very disappointed at the lack of opportunity for direct communication between the auditor and the audit committee (for example, the committee was denied a request to see the questions that would be asked). The committee would like to know where the auditor got the ideas for some of the options. Did those options come from other districts? From interviews with our administrators? It does not seem productive to include in the final report any options that the board and administrators think are not feasible for our district. Hopefully these issues will be fixed before the auditor develops a final version of the report.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 5:00pm. Agenda: the committee will start looking at what should be included in a Long Range Planning presentation in April. What should that report look like?

Respectfully submitted: Jaclyn Savolainen