

4.4.4

Long Range Planning Committee Meeting
May 15, 2018

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

Citizens Advisory Committee

Joe shared the latest list of community members interested in participating on the Citizens Advisory Committee. To date, there are 17 names (18 as of 5/16) - community members, parents with young children, older children and a teacher from each school. We are grateful for the support we're receiving from these individuals. We will propose 3 evening dates with the option to add a fourth as the work progresses.

The first meeting will be about understanding "why we're here." In order to facilitate conversation we will send out links to the District CDEP Plan as well as links to the LRP Minutes for the year and data from the NYSED School Report Cards. We will encourage members to read through these documents prior to our first meeting and come armed with questions. Based on those, the committee will work to gather further information for the participants.

It is important to impress upon the group that our goal is to think creatively about providing an excellent education for our students in the tax cap era. How should we best allocate resources? We will spend a bit of time explaining the cap and where our money comes from and show comparisons of our county schools, including Red Hook so that members understand the vast differences in each school's funding.

What of the questions of declining enrollment and finance? We will likely raise big ideas so as to get a sense of community values. Consolidation? Changing school configuration? Shared services? Jr/Sr High School? Any of these ideas will require in-depth analysis so it is critical to have the understanding and advice of this committee.

We understand that each member will come with some pre-conceived ideas about "what should be done." In order to insure that the conversation is productive, Joe will look into engaging a Facilitator for the discussions as we had with our capital plan advisory committee.

Given where we are in the school year, it is unlikely we'll be able to engage a Facilitator before June. Once we meet with that person, we will poll the committee with 5 dates over the summer to try to reach critical mass of participation. There is the potential for meetings to extend into the Fall. Regardless of the Facilitator, we would like to host the first meeting before the end of the school year.

Next meetings:

May 30

June 8

Respectfully submitted by Laura Schulkind