

4.4.1

Long Range Planning Committee Minutes – February 26, 2020

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

Retirements

Tom started the meeting with a discussion of potential future retirements (with the reminder that eligibility does not equal predictability). It looks like potential retirements will not be spread out evenly across the various departments, grades and schools, so it does not appear that the district will be able to rely solely on retirements as a solution to staffing levels.

Recent Meetings with Administrators and RTA

The committee discussed outcomes and ongoing questions from our recent meetings with administrators and with the RTA's new long range planning committee.

We also talked about principals and teachers working together to see if there is interest in teachers getting additional certifications at the middle school and high school so they can be more flexible in how they are deployed. RTA should also be included in conversations about multiple certifications as teachers could be shared across grades and subjects increasingly in the upcoming years.

One interesting idea that came out of the meeting with the RTA committee was to rotate ABCD days in CLS. It doesn't address the financial side of the equation, but doing so would improve balanced access to specials (making up for frequent Monday holidays) and would match up days with the other building. However, such a schedule would be more complicated and might be too hard to incorporate 4th and 5th grade PE requirements. Joe will discuss pros and cons and feasibility with Mr. King.

We do not have an expected date for when teachers will be getting back to us with their ideas for long range planning. The committee is hopeful that the teachers bring ideas that are K-12 in scope and that they also address the financial component.

Other

The committee discussed CLS specials areas losing more sections next year with one less elementary school class. The extra periods could fill in with Great Body Shop or Second Step.

Joe is going to confirm state PE requirements for the elementary school.

Other ideas discussed as solutions for the problem of low enrollment in HS electives included: Should we limit study halls or APs? How can we move forward with offering Pass/Fail options in some electives? What would need to happen to offer electives every other year? What would the downside be for all of those suggestions?

Tom went over some estimates of cost savings that might be gained by moving to K-6, 7-12 structure. Tom also talked about some challenges to maintaining an appropriate fund balance.

Respectfully submitted: Jaclyn Savolainen