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## Long Range Planning Committee Minutes

April 16, 2018

Present: Deirdre d'Albertis, Diane Lyons, Laura Schulkind; Tom Burnell, Joe Phelan.

Tom Burnell shared slides from the Forecast Five presentation he is assembling to tell "Rhinebeck's Story" for our upcoming budget hearing: we discussed what kind of data would be most helpful to share with members of the public. We looked at live birth data and enrollment projections that indicate the district should expect incoming classes of between 50-60 students in the coming years. We should review the research on class size and best practices to plan responsibly for the demographic shifts ahead. Rhinebeck is unique in that a fair number of transfers enroll each year: we should track that data intentionally, first of all by revising registration paperwork to include a question or two about who registers and why (beyond K enrollment). If transfer rates remain high this is a significant indicator for Long Range Planning.

Deirdre shared a document developed by the Blind Brook/Rye School District entitled "Budget 101," that offers a comprehensive introduction to how the budgeting process works throughout New York State. Much of the information presented in the Blind Brook document is applicable to all districts. Deirdre asked if it would make sense to contact this district to ask for permission to modify and use some parts of the document on our own website in the interest of continuing education for all members of our community with regard to the annual budget process: (<https://www.blindbrook.org/cms/lib/NY01913277/Centricity/Domain/64/School%20Budget%20101.pdf>)

The group formulated a draft charge to form a Citizens Advisory Committee for Long Range Planning and invites all members of the board to offer input at our April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tom observed that there have been advisory committees in the past (prior to the tax cap era). The formation of such a group must to be informed by BOE policy (reprinted in full at the end of these minutes).

The draft text of the charge reads:

**The Board of Education invites members of the community to come forward with expressions of interest in participating in the RCSD Citizen Advisory Committee on Long Range Planning.**

**Members of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be charged with working alongside members of the Long Range Planning Committee to advise the Board of Education regarding significant opportunities for innovation in our schools as well as priority-setting for allocation of resources in the coming budget cycle and beyond.**

**These discussions and deliberations will be guided by the mission, vision, and core values of the Rhinebeck Central School District as well as documents produced by the COMPREHENSIVE**

**DISTRICT EDUCATION PLAN (CDEP) team; meetings will be held over the course of at least three (3) evenings to be scheduled prior to the board's adoption of goals for the 2018-19 academic year.**

It is the intention of the LRP group to ask the full board to vote on a resolution to form the CAC within the next few weeks (either on April 24 or May 8).

The committee discussed the challenges of communicating with District residents around how public school financing works in New York State. It is difficult to access data that would show us here in Rhinebeck exactly how much of our state taxes return to us to fund the local school system. Folks often ask about the Lottery: funds raised through the Lottery replace rather than supplement funding provided by the State, representing no net gain. Many people believe that the local property tax is levied exclusively to fund schools: in fact, property taxes fund other services as well. According to the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance:

*“School districts are the largest users of the property tax. In fiscal years ending in 2009, local governments and school districts outside of New York City levied \$28.87 billion in property taxes. Of that, 62 percent was levied by schools and 17 percent by counties. The remaining 21 percent was divided among towns, special districts, cities and villages”*  
<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/learn/proptax.htm> .

**Agenda:**

- contact Blind Brook re: “Budget 101” and adapt for our website
- craft Resolution to create a Citizens Advisory Committee to meet this spring and/or summer
- identifying sub-LRPs for budgetary review

**Next meeting: Monday, April 30 at 8 AM in District Offices**

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d’Albertis

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## **Appendix: Policy on Citizens Advisory Committee**

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).

**Series:** Series1000    **Sub Series:** 1200    **Policy Number:** 1210

### **General Reference:**

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

### **Adoption Date:**

2002-03-12