

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

Taking Stock

The LRP has been meeting twice a month since the summer: where are we with our work and what do we still have before us?

Post Card Mailing and District Survey

Communication to our community about how to participate in long range planning was initiated by a postcard, produced in house (designed and copied) to save money and time (it would have taken 10 days if sent out to a printer). There are issues with the postal service; apparently the mailing has not yet made its way to Clinton Corners. The timing of the survey was discussed; LRP does not want to overlap with the forthcoming School Climate Survey. The goal is to send out the survey on **November 1st**. If the postcard mailing elicits interest from residents in the district NOT reached via school email those additional people can be added to the LRP list for all future communications (and also receive the survey).

The committee discussed sending the survey to teachers/staff as well as families in the district.

The three questions that form the basis of the survey were originally outlined in minutes for October 16th. A separate query is being sent out to the new families who came into the district over the summer.

Information about the survey will be featured on the district website. Joe plans to tweet out information about how to participate in long range planning, including via the survey instrument. “Did you get your postcard? If not, here’s how to learn more.” Ideally, this information “Blitz” will bring the ongoing work of LRP to the attention of all residents in the district.

Why does it Matter?

A roll-over budget will be prepared for board consideration in December. The LRP needs to develop a comprehensive sense of community values and priorities; the BOE will be guided by this information as it begins the process of budget deliberations. In the absence of this information, complex decisions are difficult to make or to justify.

Forecast 5

The District is investing in a new data analytics system, Forecast 5, with the capacity to deliver comparative data on staffing and compensation, academic performance, enrollment trends and demographics, and budget performance using statewide information to allow for multi-year analysis and forecasting. Forecast 5 enables dynamic projection (with different outcomes depending on assumptions entered into the tool), allowing the district to move well beyond mere compliance with

new state mandates relating to multi-year financial planning to enter into more expansive strategic planning.

Members of the committee discussed the importance of getting Forecast 5 up and running before the end of 2017. Joe, Tom, and Marvin should have access in November to the various functions of Forecast 5, running reports and sharing data as requested by the board. Tom will receive one-on-one training and then be able to work with the LRP group to investigate next best steps. Forecast 5 will be a powerful resource in communicating data clearly to members of our community in a visually compelling presentation format.

Forecast 5 will provide not just a “snapshot” (as do most budget presentation formats) but rather a longitudinal picture of academic success, for instance, over a period of years. Data can help take the emotion out of difficult conversations when cuts are being considered. So too, comparison with local districts can provide an objective context for determining appropriate levels of funding in various domains.

All Parts of District Operations

Members of the committee agree that it is crucial to communicate to residents of the district as well as all parts of the school community that the LRP (and by extension the Board) is obliged to examine all parts of district operations (finance, staffing, program, support services) in fulfilling its duty of responsible stewardship of our school system. “Down sizing” has been happening quietly over the past few years already in both the elementary and middle schools. Each budget cycle has introduced new staff and budget cuts. We have every reason to expect that this trend will continue and be felt in the high school as well as the other buildings. Understanding of the priorities and values of our community must guide all decision-making in this process. CDEP planning, for instance, ought to be considered and connected to the work of budget planning around the board table.

Schedule and Enrollments

Tom shared the master schedule for RHS along with enrollment data as requested. Questions about that schedule and the BMS schedule will be compiled in consultation with Joe and forwarded to the administrators.

Still on our To-Do List:

- Develop task lists for Board standing committees - 8/31 mtg
- Draft Citizen Advisory Council charter - 8/31 mtg
- Administrative meetings
 - Steve Boucher
 - Sheldon Tieder
 - Steve Jensen/Marvin Kreps
 - Ed Davenport/John Kemnitzer
- Explore Shared Svc opportunities
- Statistical Neighbor review & School engagement

- Organizational Charts - District & Building Level - From Forecast5?
- State Mandated Services vs Rhinebeck offering
- Set up Listening Sessions - timing & topics (Coffee with the Board as a start_
- Set up meeting with Realtors

For Nov 13 Meeting:

- Reviewing any data from the surveys already collected (Tom Burnell)
- discuss the BMS/RHS Master Schedules Tom provided at the last meeting. Develop questions for Ed Davenport re: the Electives/course requests from our mid-October meeting. Update from Joe/Tom re: their inquiries as to Shared Services with neighboring Districts.

Next Steps:

November 15th Coffee with the Board Discussion of Long Range Planning (prepare focus questions)

December Set up Forecast 5 for orientation of administrators and board members

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d'Albertis

***2017-18 District Goals**

Long Range Planning: The Board will work to understand and address the challenges of declining enrollment and attaining financial stability. In the first-year of this multi-year goal, the Board will engage the school community and the community-at large in providing feedback regarding a preferred and sustainable model of educational programming, while projecting fiscal assumptions and enrollment data over a 3-5 year period in support of the development of the 2018-19 proposed school budget. In year two, the Board will complete the long-range plan, to be updated annually.