

## **Long-Range Planning Committee Minutes**

September 25, 2017

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

### **LRP Postcard/Survey**

The committee will design the introductory postcard, and Tom will print it in-house to be mailed after Columbus Day weekend (see attached). Simultaneously, we will reach out to the Rhinebeck Community Forum to request that the information be posted and will allow 1 week for response to the card before sending out the first targeted survey.

### **Budget Impact Options**

We spent the balance of the meeting discussing what options we should explore to generate significant budgetary impact. The goal is to determine what the greatest cost savings would be while preserving the strengths of the District. As with SST, we want to be able to present a suite of options for discussion with our constituents. Mindful that change doesn't occur quickly in schools, if we have options and financial impacts outlined during our budget development time, it is the hope that our internal and community-wide discussions will be more thoughtful and better-informed.

Discussions of shared services with other Districts will require an understanding of our neighboring schools' needs. Would they be interested in exploring collaborative options? What savings and what costs would be associated with sharing? Joe and Tom will reach out to neighboring Superintendents and Business Officials to gain a better understanding of interest and financial viability. It is also important for us to clearly understand the philosophy of our community around the importance of the Rhinebeck "brand" vs. maintaining and creating opportunities for kids?

It is critically important that we have strategies to discuss before cut lists are generated so that we have a better sense of impacts both financially and academically. It will come down to clearly illustrating what meaningful financial change looks like vs. piecemeal cuts that feel reactionary to a particular budget cycle.

While the administrators work on the lists of our mandated vs non-mandated courses, it is important to also understand the percentage of students served. Do we have a few students taking many electives or a large number of kids availing themselves of only a few courses? What is the value of the selection of our courses? It would be helpful to take a backward look of 3-5 years to correlate enrollment decline with course participation.

Tom provided an updated enrollment projection sheet showing "net migration" - the net number of students moving into the District in grades 1-12. He is gathering contact information for the new families and will reach out to them to get a better understanding of why they chose Rhinebeck. The committee will develop targeted questions for these families at our October 10 meeting.

Tom also provided a draft Organizational Chart for the District which the Personnel Committee will begin assessing at their meeting in October. Finally, he provided a slide deck from NYSASBO re: Long Range Financial Planning for our review and discussion.

### **October 10 & 16 Agendas**

- develop targeted questions for new families
- develop targeted survey questions
- develop benchmarks/dates for deliverables
- develop "to-dos" for standing committees
- develop Advisory Committee Charter

### **On-going LRP To-Dos:**

- Administrative meetings
  - Steve Boucher
  - Sheldon Tieder
  - Steve Jensen/Marvin Kreps
  - Ed Davenport/John Kemnitzer
- Explore Shared Svc opportunities
- Long-Range Planning software review
- Statistical Neighbor review & School engagement
- Organizational Charts - District & Building Level
- State Mandated Services vs Rhinebeck offerings
- Develop ongoing survey questions/timing
- Set up Listening Sessions - timing & topics
- Set up meeting with Realtors
- additional research as ideas are generated

***Long Range Planning Goal:***

*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 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.*

Respectfully Submitted by Laura Schulkind