



21st CENTURY SCHOOLS
Finance & Human Resources Team

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 – 5:00 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.
Franklin Middle School – Media Center

Chairperson: Gary Martin

Team Members Present: Kelly Bohl, Wendy Braswell, Sandra Brock, Scott Burek, Janice Covert, Tracy Dunn, Tim Dziobak, Scott German, Don Halley, Linda Kempton, Sandra Kingston, Mark Neal, Margaret Offerman, Cheryl Watson

Skip Monit and Shawna Walker (Board Committee Liaisons)

Dr. Gregory J. Baracy, Superintendent

The following is a summary of our discussions:

1. *Welcome and Review of Previous Meeting Minutes*

The Chairperson welcomed the team and introduced Dr. Gregory Baracy, Superintendent of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, who requested to attend the meeting as an observer. The team reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting and no amendments were necessary.

2. *Summary of Other 21st Century Committee Team Meetings*

The Team reviewed and discussed the minutes from the other 21st Century Committee Team Meetings.

- The Instruction Team has passed the new grade configurations on to the Facilities Team, and they continue to work on instructional program issues.
- The Facilities Team has been working diligently with the Enrollment Team on analyzing unranked building ratings for the district's existing schools.
- The Enrollment Team is working on instructional building maps and boundary issues, as they continue to strive for the optimal building boundaries to fit in with building capacities.

It was noted that the Enrollment Team and Facilities Team have not made a recommendation to the Board of Education relative to which specific buildings will be impacted by the new grade configurations/right sizing efforts.

There was discussion by the team in regard to the scheduled major capital projects (construction or renovations) that have not yet been started. These projects will be put on hold until after the 21st Century Committee recommendations have been made to the Board of Education.

3. *Current Events – Lansing Budget Battle*

The team discussed the activities of the past 7 – 10 days in regard to the School State Aid Act. It was noted that the Section 20j districts (39 of the higher funded schools) were slated to lose over \$50 million in funding.

Funding for school bus inspections was cut, leaving districts unsure as to how, or if, these inspections would continue.

Furthermore, the funding for ALL districts was cut by \$165 per pupil, and by an Executive Order Cut by the Governor, ALL districts will lose an additional \$127 per pupil. It is possible that another Executive Order Cut will come after January 1, 2010.

In June 2009, the Board of Education approved a budget for the 2009-10 school year with a projected deficit of \$7 million. With these new cuts in State Aid, the Wayne-Westland Community School District's deficit will be at least \$11 million. While school districts continue to receive unprecedented cuts in funding, it is "politics as usual" in Lansing, with the Governor and the legislative leaders of both the Senate and the House arguing over whose fault it is and what should be done to fix the problem, i.e., tax increases, continuing cuts, system reforms, etc.

4. *Review of Potential Building Savings*

The committee reviewed all of the expenditures over the past two years related to two unnamed school buildings, to become familiar with the types and size of savings which would occur as a result of closing a school building.

5. *Human Resources – Staffing Issues*

The team discussed how the grade configuration changes and the resulting building consolidations might impact the many bargaining contracts within the district. It was noted that normal attrition will address many of the downsizing efforts, but that there could be select layoffs in the various bargaining groups.

If layoffs were to occur, the Human Resources Department will work with the Union leadership to follow the terms of Agreements. The team noted and discussed the possibility that the grade configuration changes and resulting building consolidations may not generate enough savings to fill the deficit hole of the district. This became particularly clear after considering the new revenue cuts recently proposed in Lansing and reconsidering the cost saving estimates from the October 8, 2009 Finance and Human Resources Team meeting.

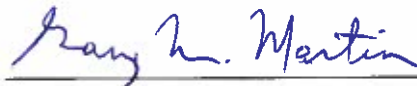
6. Establish Future Meeting Date and Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Stevenson Middle School – Media Center
38501 Palmer
Westland, MI 48186

The team discussed, and suggested, that the agenda for our next meeting include a discussion of further cost saving measures that the district could consider to address the significant new cuts in expected F09/10 funding.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Martin
Finance & Human Services Team Chairperson