



DRAFT

Long Range Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Monday, January 23, 2023

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Committee Members in Attendance: Ananda Paudel, Allison Billings, Brian Lewandowski, Caleb Starbuck, Cheryl Meyers, Dan Ryan, Dawn DiMedio, Della Smith, Gavan Goodrich, Gordo Byrn, Jade Mercer, Jamillah Richmond, Jeff Anderson, Jim Topping, Josh Baldner, Kate Stricklan, Lucas Ketzer, Michelle Stephens, Nami Bhasin, Peter Newman, Phoenix Dai, Tina Marquis, Trish De Fries, Vanessa Hetzel, Yvette Salas

Staff Members in Attendance: Rob Price, Robbyn Fernandez, Glen Segrue, Bill Sutter, Lora De La Cruz, Susan Cousins

I. Welcome

Rob Price welcomed the committee. Price clarified that the recommendations the group is working toward bringing to the Board will include metrics that define when a school's enrollment reaches a point that triggers action as well as guiding principles for the Board to consider as it develops responses for managing enrollment changes. Price turned over the meeting to the chair, Yvette Salas.

II. Public Comment

No members of the public attended the meeting.

III. Committee Governance (15 Minutes)

- A. The upcoming meeting dates were confirmed as Feb. 27 and Mar. 20.
- B. The next update from the committee to the Board will be Mar. 14.
- C. The group approved the [Nov. 28 Minutes](#).
- D. Committee Communication
 - One committee member shared with the group that there is speculation in her community about school closures.
- E. Chair and Co-Chair Updates

The co-chairs informed the group that they had met with staff to discuss the meeting agenda and the committee's progress. Jeff Anderson commented that staff and the committee are struggling to make progress and that although members of the group are highly qualified and bring diverse perspectives, they may not be as qualified to make a recommendation as staff. Anderson told the group he planned to ask staff to draft a recommendation to bring to the group in February for discussion.

IV. [Information Items](#)

- A. Review of previous meetings



Price reviewed topics covered in previous meetings. The first three meetings served to get the group grounded in the current state in terms of enrollment data and funding. Moving forward the group will develop metrics and guiding principles. Price clarified the role of the committee as well as what the group is not responsible for.

- B. Enrollment estimates for current/future developments
Glen Segrue presented information about potential new housing developments throughout the district and their expected student generation in the coming years. Affordable housing was also presented and Segrue noted that BVSD communicates regularly with local affordable housing entities to remain informed of what developments might come on line and yield new students. Staff clarified that while affordable housing is an interest of the District, it is not the role of the committee to address the issue.
- C. Open Enrollment
Bill Sutter explained the state regulations and BVSD policies that govern how open enrollment works in the District. BVSD loses and gains students from neighboring districts.
- D. Program and Financial Viability
Robbyn Fernandez gave a presentation about how student and staff experiences change as enrollment changes. Schools that have enough enrollment for three classes per grade level (three rounds) have enough per pupil funding for full-time (1.0 FTE) positions for school-wide staff such as a librarian, specials teachers, counselors, etc. As the funding for a school declines with the number of students, staff resources also decline. In BVSD's funding model, funding for school-wide positions drops below 1.0 FTE when enrollment drops below 3 rounds. With fewer staffing resources, it becomes more difficult to create a master schedule, forcing schools to develop schedules based on staff availability rather than what is best for students. In addition, staff may not always be available when students need them. Class sizes can vary noticeably at each grade level.

Committee members commented on the presented information:

- Many resources are still available at 1.5 to 2 round schools; 1 round or less is not desirable.
- Staff at smaller schools have to work harder to compensate for the lack of resources.
- It is more difficult to build community with part-time professionals. It is harder on the employee too.
- It is harder to hire for part-time positions.
- Can smaller schools meet IEP needs? District is required by law to meet IEP requirements.
- There is a sweet spot for school size in terms of resources, but the District also values providing choice. (staff comment)



- It is important to think about what is true beyond individuals' personal experiences. We bring personal biases that will affect many people for a long time.
- If we do it wrong, will we influence families leaving?
- Need more information about how the District spends all of its money. That should be part of this picture.
- Need to consider the intangibles

Committee members had small group discussions about the presented information and provided [responses to prompts](#).

Bill Sutter explained how funding changes when enrollment declines at a school. Funding is provided on a per pupil basis. As enrollment declines, overall funding also declines. However some fixed costs such as the school principal stay the same. As such, the cost per student increases. This difference in per pupil cost could be viewed as a subsidy for schools smaller than three rounds. Although BVSD's funding model calls for the FTE for some school-wide positions to be reduced as enrollment drops, it is common for less than three-round schools to receive FTE funding beyond what the model calls for to reduce the impact to students and educators.

V. Guiding Framework

- A. Rob Price shared examples of metrics used by other school districts to guide decision-making related to responding to declining enrollment. The committee co-chairs proposed that staff should come to the February meeting with three proposals of metrics that could be used to determine when a school's enrollment gets to a point that the District should consider taking action. The committee will discuss and refine the proposals.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.