

MINUTES: Meeting of the Monona Grove Board of Education, Ad Hoc Committee to Study Grade Configuration for Grades 4K-8 in the Monona Grove School District, held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, Nichols Building, District Office Board Room, Starting at 6:07 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret Breunig-Clark, Susan Fox, Kristin Frederickson, Craig Gerlach, Jennifer Jindrich, Lisa Jones, Emily Klinger, Vicki Kieler, Jeff Knight, Jill List, Jason McCutchin, Ann Schroeder, Lisa Stangler, Renee Tennant

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Jennifer Pickel

I. Opening of Meeting – Craig Gerlach, Chair

II. Declaration of Public Notice – acknowledged

III. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2009, Meeting

Jason McCutchin moved approval of the minutes of the January 6, 2009, committee meeting. Margaret Breunig-Clark seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Review Data

Craig Gerlach stated he would like to begin the discussion by reviewing the solutions as reported in the minutes of the January 6, 2009, meeting.

Item No. 1 – Previously deleted:

~~Make sixth grade district wide an elementary program.~~

Item No. 2 – Previously deleted:

~~Have 4K-4 schools in Monona and Cottage Grove.~~

Item No. 3 – Bring all sixth graders together in one building at Glacial Drumlin.

One bus route is approximately \$35,000 – would need one bus – reduction at Winnequah in staffing but increase at Glacial Drumlin (no net increase; decrease in traveling staff).

Item No. 4 – Bring all 4th and 5th graders in district to Winnequah School.

Increase of six routes into Monona, but reduction of two or three currently transporting students within Cottage Grove; \$140,000 in transportation costs (cost of four buses).

Note: This item was deleted in later discussion in this meeting. See below.

Item No. 5 – Add on to Cottage Grove and/or Taylor Prairie.

Estimated \$1.2 million for addition of 4 classrooms plus 2 bathrooms; \$2.4 million to add on to both buildings.

Note: This item was deleted in later discussion in this meeting. See below.

Item No. 6 – Previously deleted:

~~Build another elementary school in Cottage Grove.~~

Item No. 7 – Add modular units to Cottage Grove and Taylor Prairie.

Set-up fee needed – needs Village of Cottage Grove approval – previous rental cost was \$7500 per unit annually; estimate current annual rental cost at \$10,000 per unit; \$40,000 previous setup cost, including cement pad, which remains; set-up estimated at \$40,000-\$80,000, plus delivery and installation.

Item No. 8 – Keep 4K-8 in own community, Monona 7th and 8th grades to Winnequah.

Possible decrease in transportation – increase in staff possible.

Item No. 9 – Previously deleted:

~~District magnet/charter school in Monona.~~

Item No. 10 – 4K-5th grade elementary buildings (Taylor Prairie, Cottage Grove, Winnequah); 6th – 8th grades at Glacial Drumlin; 9th – 12th grades at Monona Grove High School.

Student populations at each school would be very large (at least 520 students per school) – would need to add on to Cottage Grove and Taylor Prairie.

Item No. 11 – Consolidate Maywood and Winnequah at Winnequah.

Savings of approximately \$500,000 – would need remodeling – \$70,000 from referendum funds remains available for remodeling costs at Winnequah – savings of administrative and other staff.

Item No. 12 – Previously deleted:

~~Sell Nichols and Maywood to pay for enlarging Cottage Grove & Taylor Prairie.~~

Item No. 13 – 4K-3rd grade elementary buildings (Maywood, Taylor Prairie, Cottage Grove); all district 4th and 5th grades at Winnequah, and all 6th – 8th at Glacial Drumlin.

Estimated cost of roughly \$175,000 annually for transportation.

Item No. 14 – Previously deleted:

~~Add on to Taylor Prairie (4K-2nd grade at Taylor Prairie), 3rd – 5th grades at Cottage Grove, district wide 6th – 8th grades at Glacial Drumlin.~~

Item No. 15 – Previously deleted:

~~Move 4K out of Taylor Prairie and move to off site or to Monona.~~

Item No. 16 – Find additional site for district 4K students.

Community sites would like to increase membership – preliminary enrollment numbers down for next year.

Item No. 17 – Previously deleted:

~~Bus kids only outside 2 mile area and / or charge riders.~~

Item No. 18 – Elementary boundaries district wide rather than community wide.

Needs more discussion – limited information.

Item No. 19 – Previously deleted:

~~TP 4K – 1st grade (Cottage Grove students), Cottage Grove 2nd – 3rd grade (Cottage Grove students), Winnequah 4th grade (Monona students), 5th & 6th grades district wide at Winnequah, Glacial Drumlin 7th – 8th grades all students and 2nd – 4th from Cottage Grove, and Maywood 4K – 3rd grade (Monona students)~~

Item No. 20 – District wide building, 4K – 1st grade.

Needs more discussion – limited information.

Discussion continued on the following items, some of which were then deleted and some retained on the list to be considered further:

Item No. 5 – Add on to Cottage Grove and/or Taylor Prairie.

After further discussion, this item was deleted.

Item No. 10 – 4K-5th grade elementary buildings (Taylor Prairie, Cottage Grove, Winnequah); 6th – 8th grades at Glacial Drumlin; 9th – 12th at Monona Grove High School.

Keep Item No. 10 on the list and maybe change to modular units for additional classroom space – Craig stated this item could have various options.

Item No. 16 – Find additional site for district 4K students.

Committee wanted to keep this on the list – 4K enrollment is down for next year.

Item No. 8 – Keep 4K-8 in own community, Monona 7th and 8th to Winnequah.

More information needed as to remodeling of building, impact on program, itemized costs – less bussing.

Item No. 18 – Elementary boundaries district wide rather than community wide.

Does not solve problems in Cottage Grove – no natural break for attendance purposes – advantage is utilization of existing space in Monona.

Item No. 20 – District wide building, 4K-1st grade.

This item was deleted after discussion – not favorable to bus younger students.

Item No. 7 – Add modular units to Cottage Grove and Taylor Prairie.

Needs more discussion.

Item No. 4 – Bring all 4th and 5th graders in district to Winnequah School.

After further discussion, this item was removed from the list, because it is encompassed in Item No. 13.

Item No. 11 – Consolidate Maywood and Winnequah at Winnequah.

Needs more discussion – keep on list; specific itemized list of cost savings was requested.

Item No. 13 – 4K-3rd grade elementary buildings (Maywood, Taylor Prairie, Cottage Grove); all 4th and 5th grades at Winnequah, and all 6th-8th grades at Glacial Drumlin.

Craig Gerlach stated the following items are still being considered and will be discussed further at the next meeting: Item No. 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 18. He further stated the following items have been deleted from discussion: Items No. 4, 5, and 20.

V. Consider Additional Solutions

Craig stated an additional solution may be to do nothing at this time. Discussion will be held at the next meeting regarding how long the district can do nothing, or stay status quo.

VI. Consider Elimination of Solutions

Discussed in Agenda Item IV. Review of Data

VII. Discuss Status of Committee and Future Direction

Because of time constraints, this agenda item will be discussed further at the next meeting. Craig stated he feels after the next committee meeting he believes a public listening session may be in order. The goal of the committee is to have approximately three to four options for further discussion to present to the public.

VIII. Review Committee Meeting Schedule & Define Agenda

The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 6:00 P.M. at the Nichols building in the District Office Board Room. The committee will be meeting permanently in the District Office Board Room.

IX. Adjournment

Lisa Jones moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kristin Frederickson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M.