

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, February 10, 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, Jason McCutchin, Jennifer Pickel Ann Schroeder, Lisa Stangler, Renee Tennant

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Jill List

- I. Opening of Meeting – Craig Gerlach, Chair
- II. Declaration of Public Notice – acknowledged
- III. Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2009, Meeting

Ann Schroeder moved approval of the minutes of the January 27, 2009, committee meeting. Susan Fox seconded. Motion carried.

- IV. Discuss Enrollment Projections

Craig Gerlach stated he has had a number of citizens approach him to offer their services. Jason McCutchin put together a spreadsheet showing enrollment numbers, using the Applied Population Lab's projected enrollment numbers and averaging their (APL's) four scenarios. (Note: the nine scenarios as presented on Jason's spreadsheet are different than the committee's proposed possible solutions).

Betsy Zande prepared and submitted a spreadsheet showing the remaining solutions still being discussed by the committee.

Craig led a discussion by the committee of the scenarios as presented on Jason's spreadsheet:

Scenario #1 – K-4 Taylor Prairie, K-4 Cottage Grove, K-5 Winnequah, 5 Cottage Grove, and 6-8 Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – additional (temporary) classroom space needed at Taylor Prairie and Glacial Drumlin, Glacial Drumlin numbers escalate rapidly.

Scenario #2 – K-3 Taylor Prairie, K-3 Cottage Grove and 4, K-5 Winnequah, 5 Cottage Grove, and 6-8 Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – additional space needed at Cottage Grove and Glacial Drumlin numbers escalate rapidly.

Scenario #3 – K-3 Taylor Prairie, K-3 Cottage Grove, K-3 Maywood, district 4-5 all Winnequah, and all 6-8 Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – no issues with space, this will maximize use of existing space, but will increase transportation costs.

Scenario #4 – K-2 Taylor Prairie, 3-5 Cottage Grove, K-5 Winnequah, and 6-8 Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – Puts Taylor Prairie over 520 students, will need modular units at both Taylor Prairie and Cottage Grove.

Scenario #5 – K-4 Taylor Prairie, K-4 Cottage Grove, K-4 and all 5 at Winnequah, 6-8 Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – space issues at Taylor Prairie (modular units needed), an increase in transportation costs, Winnequah increased enrollment numbers, and Cottage Grove 5th grade to Winnequah for one year and then back to Winnequah for 6th grade (transition to new school for only one year).

Scenario #6 – K-4 Taylor Prairie, K-4 Cottage Grove, K-6 Winnequah, 5-6 CG and 7-8 at Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – space problems at Taylor Prairie.

Scenario #7 – K-3 Taylor Prairie, K-3 Cottage Grove, K-8 Winnequah, 4-8 Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – relieves Cottage Grove and Taylor Prairie enrollment, puts pressure on Glacial Drumlin, and duplication of middle school programming.

Scenario #8 – K-4 Taylor Prairie, K-4 Cottage Grove, K-8 Winnequah, 5-8 Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – space issues at Taylor Prairie (modular units needed), and duplication of middle school programming.

Scenario #9 – K-4 Taylor Prairie, K-4 Cottage Grove, K-2 Maywood, 3-8 Winnequah, 5-8 Glacial Drumlin. Notes from discussion – space issues at Taylor Prairie (will need modular units), and duplication of middle school programming.

Craig distributed a handout prepared by Betsy Zande listing scenarios left after last meeting.

Number 1 on handout (Item Number 3 from committee – Bring all sixth graders together in one building at Glacial Drumlin) – impact on Glacial Drumlin, will be over 750 students.

Number 2 on handout (Item Number 7 from committee – Add modular units to Cottage Grove and Taylor Prairie) – DELETE, does not solve crowding at Glacial Drumlin.

Number 3 on handout (Item Number 16 from committee – Find additional site for district 4K students) – DELETE, staffing contractual problems and hard to find additional sites.

Number 4 on handout (Item Number 18 from committee – Elementary boundaries district wide rather than community wide) – Suggestion to explore use of Nichols School, high transportation costs, may be bussing younger children. Note: Craig stated we would only use Nichols for bringing Cottage Grove students to Monona.

Number 5 – (Item Number 11 from committee – Consolidate Maywood and Winnequah at Winnequah) – does not solve enrollment problems in Cottage Grove, and savings of \$267,596.58 yearly by closing Maywood (not \$500,000 savings as previously reported).

Number 6 – (Item Number 8 from committee – Keep 4K-8 in own community, Monona 7th and 8th grade to Winnequah) –DELETE, expensive option, does not solve problems at Cottage Grove or Taylor Prairie, and may solve problems at Glacial Drumlin.

Number 7 and 8 – (Item Number 10 from committee – 4K-5 elementary buildings (Taylor Prairie, Cottage Grove, Winnequah), 6-8 at Glacial Drumlin, 9-12 at Monona Grove High School) – student population very large at each school, would only solve problems at Glacial Drumlin.

Number 9 – (Item Number 13 from committee – 4K-3 elementary buildings (Maywood, Taylor Prairie, Cottage Grove), all district 4-5 at Winnequah, and 6-8 at Glacial Drumlin) – Would only solve capacity problems at Glacial Drumlin.

Craig stated as a follow up he is very concerned with the enrollment numbers at Glacial Drumlin in several of the scenarios.

Discussion was held regarding the list of solutions as reported by the committee in the minutes of the January 27, 2009 meeting.

Item No. 3 – Bring all sixth graders together in district to Glacial Drumlin School – Notes from discussion: financially makes more sense (less traveling staff), more equitable to have all sixth graders together (programming), puts enrollment stress on Glacial Drumlin earlier. Renee Tennant had a map of Glacial Drumlin that was reviewed by the Committee. The question was asked if committee members were in favor of moving sixth grade Monona students to Glacial Drumlin. After discussion, most of the committee felt that from an educational standpoint, and if space was not an issue, they would like to see all sixth grade students at Glacial Drumlin. It was reported that there has been some opposition in the communities regarding this item.

Item No. 7 – Add modular units to Cottage Grove and Taylor Prairie. Notes from discussion: DELETED, problems with common spaces (lunch room, gymnasium) if too many students in building, schools will be too large.

Item No. 18 – Elementary boundaries district wide rather than community wide. Notes from discussion: concerns regarding possible reduction of parental involvement, increased transportation, transporting young children, and no logical dividing point.

V. Discuss Financial Impact

Craig reviewed with the Committee a summary of anticipated saving of closing Maywood (Item No. 11). The total net savings on staffing is \$180,735.58; the savings of operational and custodial costs is \$86,0861.00; for a total net savings of \$267,596.58 on a yearly basis. (Note: \$500,000 savings as previously reported was inaccurate).

VI. Consider Elimination of Solutions

The following items were eliminated after discussion by the committee:

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

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

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

VII. Discuss Status of Committee and Future Direction

Craig stated the following solutions are still on the table and will be discussed at the next committee meeting:

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

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

Item No. 11 – Consolidate Maywood and Winnequah at Winnequah

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

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

Craig formed a sub committee of the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare information for the Community Public Sessions to include Susan Fox, Jeff Knight, Margaret Breunig-Clark, and Jennifer Pickel. This sub committee will report back to the Ad Hoc Committee on February 24 with a draft for Committee approval.

Committee members asked that a document be prepared showing deleted solutions grouped together and solutions still needing to be discussed on another.

VIII. Review Committee Meeting Schedule & Define Agenda

Next meeting of the Committee will be Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

Community Public Sessions will be held Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 7:00 P.M. at Glacial Drumlin School and Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 7:00 P.M., at Winnequah School.

(NOTE: On Wednesday, February 11, 2009, Craig Gerlach, Superintendent and Chair of the Committee, cancelled the Public Information Meetings until after the committee further discusses the solutions and financial aspects associated with those items).

The March Committee meeting, if needed, will be Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

(NOTE: The committee will meet on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, as a regular meeting).

Craig stated that at the next meeting the committee would discuss format of public meetings and continue discussion of remaining solutions.

IX. Adjournment

Kristin Fredrickson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jennifer Pickel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.