

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, November 18, 2008, Nichols Building, District Office Board Room, Starting at 6:08 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, Jennifer Pickel, Ann Schroeder, Lisa Stangler, Renee Tennant

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I. Opening of Meeting – Craig Gerlach, Chair

II. Declaration of Public Notice – acknowledged

III. Introductions & Verify Email Addresses

Committee members introduced themselves and filled out an informational sheet with phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

IV. Define Purpose of Meeting

Craig Gerlach reported the Board of Education at their last meeting changed the scope of the Ad Hoc Committee to a study of the 4K-8 grade configuration district wide. The resolution as approved by the Board is as follows:

A task force appointed by the Board President be established to discuss the issues relating to the enrollments and grade configurations of the 4K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade schools in the Monona Grove School District. An analysis and recommendation(s) will be provided to the School Board by the end of the 2008-2009 school year. The Committee to be comprised of 2 School Board members, 3 administrators, 1 staff member from the Cottage Grove elementary schools, 1 staff members from the Monona elementary schools, 4 Cottage Grove citizens, and 4 Monona citizens.

V. Review Current Building Configurations

A handout was distributed showing square footage and student capacity of the school district buildings. Discussion was held regarding level of students appropriate for each of the buildings and which buildings could accommodate an increase of students if square footage was increased.

VI. Review Enrollments & Building Capacities

A handout was distributed showing district enrollment. Discussion was held regarding present enrollment as it compares to building capacity. Craig Gerlach

stated that most buildings can absorb enrollment numbers above building capacity but the common areas; i.e., lunch areas, gymnasium, IMC, music, etc., may not be able to handle the increased enrollment. Open enrollment was discussed and how the process will be monitored closely next year as to not allow students to enroll if the building is at capacity.

## VII. Discuss Sixth Grade Schedule

Programming for sixth grade students was discussed. Sixth grade students at both schools have been following the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school curriculum model which is separate from any elementary programming. Discussion was held regarding pro's and con's of the current sixth grade scheduling with Monona sixth grade students being in an elementary building with a 3-6 configuration and Cottage Grove sixth grade students being in a 5-8 configuration.

## VIII. Define Issues

Discussion was held regarding issues facing the Monona Grove School District as it relates to grade configuration for grades 4K-8.

Issues as defined by Committee members:

1. Building issues – separate schedules within a single building.
2. Duplicating two sixth grade programs at two sites.
3. Overcrowding in Cottage Grove buildings.
4. Glacial Drumlin School is at capacity.
5. Under utilized buildings in Monona (Maywood and Winnequah)
6. Consolidation of Monona buildings.
7. Transportation costs.
8. Frequent change of buildings for students.
9. Role of Community Schools.
10. Parental involvement in two communities.
11. Uniting both communities.
12. Too few grades in some buildings.

## IX. Brainstorm Solutions

The following solutions were defined by Committee members:

1. Make sixth grade an elementary program.
2. Have 4K-4 schools in both communities.
3. Bring all 6<sup>th</sup> graders together in one building.
4. Bring all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students together at Winnequah.
5. Add on to Taylor Prairie School.
6. Build another elementary school in Cottage Grove.
7. Add modular units to Cottage Grove School.
8. Keep 4K-8 in own community.
9. Environmental Charter School in Monona.

10. 4K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 configuration.
11. Close Maywood and put modular units at Cottage Grove.
12. Sell buildings to pay for enlarging Taylor Prairie or Cottage Grove.
13. Three 4K-3 programs (Taylor Prairie, Cottage Grove, Maywood), a 4-5 program at Winnequah, and Glacial Drumlin 6-8.
14. Add on to Taylor Prairie – 4K-2 at Taylor Prairie, 3-5 at Cottage Grove, and 6-8 at Glacial Drumlin.
15. Move 4K out of Cottage Grove.
16. Find additional space for 4K students.
17. Bus kids only outside two mile area and/or charge bus riders.
18. Bus Cottage Grove students to Nichols.
19. Elementary boundaries district wide.

X. Schedule Next Meeting Date & Define Agenda

Craig stated he would review the issues and solutions and bring additional information to the next meeting of the Committee.

Committee members asked that the following information be gathered for future meetings:

1. Cost to transport 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Winnequah from Cottage Grove.
2. Which districts charge for bussing, and how much do they charge.
3. Numbers of students at each grade level.
4. Various transportation charges – what did it cost to bus 6-8 to Monona, what does it cost this year to bus students from Monona to Cottage Grove.
5. Costs to keep schools open or closed.
6. Maps of each building to look at classroom sizes.

Frequency of meetings was discussed. The Committee agreed to have one meeting in December and beginning in January to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month. Meetings would be two hours in length, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The meeting in December will be held on Tuesday, December 9. A schedule of future meetings will be included with the agenda for December 9, 2008.

XI. Adjournment

Ann Schroeder moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jill List seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.