

Local Planning Committee Meeting

April 25, 2016

5:30 pm

In attendance: Mike Genton, Kerrie Stewart, Sharon James, Debbie Beeles, Danny Black, Kristy Center, Shelly Ginn, Angela Brown, Carolee Kunkel, Chris Abbott, Jodi Ginn, Jessica Wilcoxson, Melissa West, Betsy Liston, Todd Pollock, JW Sachleben, Christy Cull, Paula Ames, Todd Bryan, and Steve Miracle.

1. The April 25, 2016 meeting of the Local Planning Committee was called to order by Chairperson Shelly Ginn at 5:55 pm at MES following a tour of the building. The next meeting will be at TCHS on Tuesday, May 3rd at 5:30.
2. Minutes to the April 19, 2016 meeting were shared. A motion was made by Sharon James and seconded by Melissa West to approve the minutes as read.
3. Chairperson Shelly Ginn requested those who wanted to speak at the public forum to sign in.
4. Committee reviewed last week's forum comments and concerns. Those concerns were addressed by Mr. Miracle.
5. Meeting was turned over to facilitator Mark Ryles.
 - a. Executive Summary of topics was presented by Mr. Ryles of what was presented at the last meeting to keep everyone up-to-date.
 - b. Mr. Ryles presented a map of KY districts and their statewide nickel funding status.
6. Chairperson Shelly Ginn introduced Mr. Fulk who will be presenting the proposed restructuring plan that the committee asked to see at the last meeting.

Questions/Comments by committee members following presentation:

Self-contained at 6th grade—are there enough MS teachers certified to teach self-contained classes at elementary school?

Will utilities increase at TCHS as a result of adding more students?

Middle School students taking High School classes—aren't we supposed to be keeping them (MS and HS students) separated?

How many students in Alternative Placement? Will there be elementary placements in Alternative School?

Will 6th grade scores fall back in with elementary accountability?

Bullying question—bullying statistics question. Is student generated survey data reliable? Requesting some data from surrounding counties regarding bullying.

Technology needs—will the HS facility be able to meet the needs of self-paced classes of middle school classrooms?

Science labs for middle school classrooms? Art room? Lunch schedule? Pick-up/drop-off plan for MS students? Parking for staff? Traffic plan?

Have we ever thought about starting elementary schools earlier or MS/HS students later to alleviate traffic problems?

Personal satisfaction of 6th graders staying back in the elementary school? Is there contentment data?

Lots of parents have voiced relief of their 6th graders possibly staying back in elementary school.

Focus on organizational structure, how facilities are utilized, transitions, academic performance, vision for the future, financial considerations—there is a sense of urgency. Try to put the board into a position where they have some flexibility and not compromise the academic performance. Could the HS building be modified to incorporate some of the needs for the students mentioned above?

Will restructuring affect the ranking of the high school on the urgent need list? More populated schools seem to be more likely to receive funding.

Will they not look at closing a school unfavorably just to populate a school to receive urgent need funds?

What's the plan for the moving (the physical move) of the school?

It's obvious we are going to have to do something, my concern is that group of kids have a whole set of needs of their own (MS kids).

I don't want the school to lose its identity. We visited Spencer County Middle school with the Lighthouse Team—those kids walked through the hallways and they were amazed by that facility (built in 2005). I know our kids deserve better than what they have right now.

Bulldoze MS building and build a new school for 7-12 in its spot.

How do you renovate HS while it's populated with students? And make that building, as old as it is, new.

Ask parents why they are sending their kids to Henry or Carroll? Is there something we can fix so we don't lose those kids?

7. Homework—take the information that has been provided to you and process it. Bring questions and/or alternative ideas for the LPC committee as far as facilities plan is concerned.
8. Shelly Ginn once again asked those in the audience who wanted to speak during the public forum to sign in to speak.
9. Jessica Wilcoxson made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 and the motion was seconded by Todd Bryan. Motion passed.

Public Forum Comments/Questions:

Gregg Fischer: Alternative school at MS...will the same standards of a school still be required? Alternative school students will still need heat. If reading recovery improves schools and enrollment goes back up, will we be able to reopen the MS?

Russell Young: Primary focus of the community is the education of the students—it was the teachers that made me what I am today. Not the building. There was prayer in the schools when I was a student and we said the pledge every day. So pray about this and share with the committee what your answers

are. We want the best for our children. Two of my grandchildren attend Carrollton Christian Academy—because prayer is allowed in those schools. We have to have a relationship. We have to have that to accomplish what we're trying to accomplish here.

John Higgins: This committee has a tremendous decision to make that will impact the school district for a long time. There is always a thing about finances—make it on the salary schedule. This is a selling job that is going on. No one likes taxes, but we like the best for our students and teachers. We have to support our teachers. We worked hard to get those 2 nice elementary schools, and by the time we get them done, we need 2 other new schools. We want our students to have the best. We have a need for alternative school. Some of these kids can't make it in school. The community has to be sold on what we're talking about. Think about the community and the relationships we can build and what is best for kids long range. Is it time to make a decision now or wait a little bit. Cuts hurt people.

Tara Isley: We still say the pledge everyday here at MES. We still have small groups that pray. Would 6th grade be happy staying in elementary? My child will be a 6th grader next year and would prefer to stay at MES. We could continue to watch that class grow if they remain in MES. As a parent, safety is my number one concern—highly recommends an alternative school and keeping 6th graders at elementary school. Certification issues can be solved by teaching departmentalized classes at elementary level (which has been done at MES before and is currently being done at BES now).

Alisa Jones: Later school day for high school—not a fan. Can't split up the kids when older sibling babysits for the younger ones. Daughter currently takes Algebra I in the 8th grade but she doesn't get to count the class as a high school credit. That is frustrating. Frankly, my 5th grade son is not ready for middle school academically. He has made leaps and bounds in the 5th grade academically and I'd like to see that continue in the elementary setting. Happiness—don't really care if they are happy if this is what is best for them. Supports alternative school whether we restructure or not. Our children deserve better than what they are getting right now.

Jenna Stevens: My daughter is currently in the 7th grade. She cried every single morning before school and had stomach aches every Sunday night. She was not ready for middle school. It is such a different environment. As a 7th grader she loves school—she is more mature and is ready to handle it. I initially thought if she has to go to the high school as an 8th grader, I am dreading it. But when I asked her about it, she said she wants to go to the high school because she hates that building (MS). You never see the light of day. In the 6th grade hall, there are hardly any windows. Her husband went through high school in the current MS building and he hated that building. Being 141st out of 172 is embarrassing. We can do better. My husband and I have considered moving our kids to another school district. I am Trimble County now—I fell in love with it. So to have those feelings of thinking I need to send my kids to another building is heartbreaking. Now that we see the administration looking to do something about the schools, we are reconsidering switching districts.

