

DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58

MEET & CONFER STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING

April 13, 2017

The Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee met on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. at Longfellow Center.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m.

Present

Elizabeth Sigale, David Bein, Kari Cremascoli, James Eichmiller, Erin Guth, Megan Hewitt, Katie Hurckes, Jason Lynde, Kate Nickell, Julie Quinlan Marcia Radja, Angie Rybarczyk, Linda Vanacora, Kim Venzon, Kristen Ward, and Jayne Yudzentis.

Also in attendance were visitors Matt Bain, Jennifer Haselhorst, Susan Helsdon, and Tracy Weiner.

Absent

Doug Purcell, Karl Berg, Matt Durbala, Emily Honn, Carin Novak, Pam Osika, Bill Riban (alternate), Julie Ryan (alternate), Jill Samonte (alternate), Andrew Schmidt, Justin Sisul, Jason Suchy (alternate), and Barb Svitak.

Approval of Minutes

Erin Guth moved and Linda Vanacora seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

Strategic Plan Timeline

Elizabeth Sigale presented a potential timeline for the strategic planning process. A reorganization of the Board of Education will take place on May 1, 2017. A Board retreat may be scheduled in July at which time decisions can be made to move forward with the strategic planning process. Official conversations will take place; at this point there does seem to be consensus for the need to renew the District's Strategic Plan. Consulting firms will be considered in July or August 2017. The professional firm will help guide and facilitate the process to ensure a broad stakeholder voice. The goal is to complete the strategic planning process and make a presentation to the Board by April 2018. Questions, concerns, and/or feedback should be addressed to the Superintendent or Elizabeth Sigale.

School Finance / Facilities

David Bein, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO, made a presentation to the Committee sharing background information on school finance.

- Review of Terminology and Fund Accounting.
- Financial Stability – What does it mean to have financial stability?
 - Committee members were asked to pair up with other members to discuss what “financial stability” means to them personally and to the school district. Thoughts were shared.
 - Transparency is important - there are plans that are clear.
 - Referendums - Is this a good thing or bad thing? Is this a sign of poor planning or a plan of proactivity?
 - Not spending more than you already have - there should be a reserve.
 - Educating the public is important.
 - Aligning revenues and expenditures.
- Review of School Funding Sources
 - Local
 - Primarily property taxes.
 - Fees and other sources make up a small percentage.
 - State
 - The majority of state funding is allotted through the General State Aid Formula.
 - Mandated categorical payments make up the bulk of the remaining state funding.
 - Federal
 - Primarily grants (i.e. Title I, IDEA, National School Lunch, etc.).
 - Typically designated funds with restricted options for spending.
- The Committee was divided into smaller groups. Based on information provided, these groups were asked to consider how the District has worked to provide financial stability. Are there any particular successes that are notable? Observations were shared by groups.
 - Planning for the future - effort to make long-term plans.
 - Intentionally spending down some funds.
 - Need for financial transparency - Do all stakeholders understand what goes into decision making?
 - It is fairly easy to find information regarding District 58 finances via website or other resources.
 - Balancing funds despite some challenges.
 - More parent/ community education could be provided.
 - Goal setting and planning are strengths.
 - Working around the downfalls of the State of Illinois.

Next Steps

David Bein will continue his presentation to the Committee with Slide #19 at the next meeting scheduled on May 11, 2017.

Reception of Visitors

Matt Bain, Highland resident, recently moved to Downers Grove and had heard about the possibility of redistricting.

Adjourn

Katie Hurckes moved and Marcia Radja seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ws adjourned at 7:57 a.m.