

Community Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 13, 2018

In attendance: Lupita Chavarria, Anthony Hampton, Jeff Wood; Mike Poore

Meeting convened: 5:59 pm

- I. Welcome and Ground Rules for Meeting
 - a. Jeff Wood opened the meeting at 5:59 p.m. He reviewed the agenda and advised the crowd that they may sign up to speak for three minutes per person during the public forum section of the agenda.
- II. Celebrations
 - a. Mr. Poore discussed the following subjects
 - a. The Community Report
 - b. Single Log-In System for District Apps (result of parent suggestion)
 - c. School Holiday Performances
 - d. District Update at AR Board of Education meeting
- III. Facility Blueprint
 - a. Mr. Poore presented a summary of the background of the Blueprint Plan including the history of how the Plan was created. He stated the following:
 - i. The District board members of 2013-2015 purchased land for a new high school in the southwest area and planned to open a new middle school in the northwest area of Little Rock.
 - ii. The District has invested in training teachers in RISE, implemented project-based learning, and restorative justice.
 - iii. The District is using Measures of Academic Performance (MAP).
 - iv. Facility Upgrades – updated energy utilization resources in schools
 - v. Second Lien Loan – helped in building new high school; new roofs; new HVAC in kitchens and improved bathrooms, lighting and athletic facilities at multiple campuses.
 - b. Three Goals of the Plan
 - i. Improve Learning environments
 - ii. Expand choice and amenities for parents
 1. The District wants to provide expanded choice starting with birth into the 12th grade.
 - iii. Boost staff salaries
 - iv. New teacher scales would boost starting salaries for new teachers and provide a raise for staff.
 - c. Community Ideas

- i. Mr. Poore reviewed several ways the District has included the community in the process.
- d. Administration Recommendations
 - i. Mr. Poore shared a timeline and milestones of the Plan
 - ii. LR Southwest High School
 - 1. Enhance community collaboration
 - 2. Hiring of staff
 - 3. Establishing culture
 - 4. Student Bussing
 - iii. McClellan
 - 1. Raze building; construction of new building
 - 2. Conversion to K-8 school
 - 3. No specific funding stream
 - 4. New school in 2022
 - 5. Move Cloverdale, Baseline and Meadowcliff into new building
 - iv. Baseline
 - 1. All Pre-K program
 - 2. Solution to public demand
 - 3. Sliding pay scale
 - 4. 2020
 - v. Meadowcliff
 - 1. No specific repurposing plan
 - 2. Would like to maintain some presence in the building
 - 3. Would like to make boundary adjustments in this area
 - 4. Community concerns
 - vi. K-8 programs
 - 1. Four programs total if plan is approved
 - 2. Current K-8 at Forest Heights has been well received.
 - 3. Financing is not yet available
 - 4. Combining of Bale and Southwest Jr. high campuses
 - vii. JA Fair K-8
 - 1. Combining Henderson, Dodd and Romine
 - 2. Task forces for combining school communities and repurposing facilities
 - viii. Romine
 - 1. Conversion to Pre- K Center
 - ix. Dodd
 - 1. ESL Center and Mexican Consulate
 - x. Challenges
 - 1. Less positive public feedback
 - 2. Boundary adjustments
 - 3. Transportation
 - xi. Hall High

1. Positive changes: new principal, improved culture, more than a year's worth of academic growth
 2. Boundary adjustment by the fall of 2019
 3. Continued collaboration between Forest Heights and Hall High
 4. Improve Public perception
 5. Improve diversity
- xii. Pinnacle View
1. Opened in 2016-2017 with 6th grade only in old warehouse
 2. Currently 6-8 grade students
 3. Working on plan to utilize empty office space
 4. Action item to create 9th grade at Pinnacle View
- xiii. Bale and Southwest Jr. High
1. K3-3 in Bale building
 2. 4-8 in Southwest building
 3. Open in 2020
 4. Dual language component – each student would be instructed in two languages
 5. Possible partnerships with CALS for public library and UALR for lab classrooms
- xiv. Downtown/East Elementary schools
1. Expand Pre-K programs; possibly birth to Pre-K programs
 2. Improving feeder patterns
 3. Move Rockefeller students to Washington
 4. Make Rockefeller all Pre-K
 5. Washington would be K-5; will feed into Dunbar
 6. Booker would move into Washington
- e. Public Forum- Mr. Wood opened the floor to comments and questions from members of the audience who signed up to speak
1. Valencia White, parent of students at Watson and Chicot, citizen of SWLR
 2. Dr. Anika Whitfield, citizen of Little Rock, graduate of Hall High
- f. Board Questions (Vote will take place on Tuesday, December 18, 2018)
- i. Mr. Wood opened the floor to questions from the Board.
 - ii. There were no questions about the LR Southwest High School.
 - iii. McClellan
 1. Mr. Hampton asked why a bilingual program was not added to McClellan and Mr. Wood asked questions about how the \$50M cost to build a new building was calculated. Mr. Wood stated that he finds asking voters for a millage increase unfruitful. Mr. Wood also asked for details about alternative funding and facilities grant from the State
 - iv. JA Fair

1. Mr. Hampton asked how the proposal to convert Henderson into a sports complex with affect the West Central city complex. He also asked for details about plans for centralizing ESL programs in facilities separate from the student's school. Dr. Karen Broadnax answered his questions. Dr. Broadnax mentioned that there have been volumes of requests from teachers for ESL training. Mr. Hampton urged the District to diversify the offerings of the ESL program to meet the needs so that it's not limited to one culture. Mr. Hampton asked for details about plans for transportation to K-8 programs. Mr. Wood asked about costs to prepare Fair and its' capacity for a K-8 program. Mr. Wood asked if the Fair K-8 conversion would start in May 2020 in order to open in August 2020.
- v. Hall
1. Mr. Wood asked about the anticipated budget to convert Hall to a STEM program. He asked for details about Hall will convert to STEM programming. Mr. Wood asked for details about the boundary study. Mr. Wood asked if Hall could become a Magnet that matches Parkview.
- vi. Pinnacle View
1. Mr. Wood asked about plans for extra-curricular programs at Pinnacle View. Mr. Wood asked about the vision for academic programming at Pinnacle View. Mr. Wood asked for two task forces to be created before the Winter Break to work toward 2019-2020 and 2020 forward. He also asked for more work toward creating a partnership with Pulaski County Special School District. Mr. Wood said the Board will consider adding his
- vii. Bale/Southwest Jr. High
1. Mr. Hampton expressed concerns with feeding students into e-STEM due to proximity.
 2. Mr. Wood asked about reasoning behind magnet designation.
 3. Mr. Wood asked about tax credit partnerships.
- viii. Downtown and East area Elementary schools
1. Mr. Wood asked for specifics about where closures might occur. Mr. Poore answered that repurposing schools can result in a savings of approximately \$800K at the elementary level and \$1.5M at the secondary level. At the Fair campus, we would generate savings at Henderson, Dodd and Romine. We would save from Meadowcliff, Cloverdale and Baseline moving to McClellan. We would also save at Rockefeller. We would see some savings in 2020, then the bulk in 2022.
 2. Mr. Wood asked how soon we can impact teachers with this plan. Mr. Poore discussed incremental pay increases. Mr. Wood asked a Facility Capacity Report before the Board votes Tuesday. Mr. Poore said that it will be sent to Board meetings and posted on the District website.

3. Mr. Wood asked about conditions of legal agreement related to McClellan.
4. Mr. Wood asked for details about Pre-K program funding. Pay for Pre-K sliding scale based upon income.
5. Mr. Wood offered comments about academic focus of the District in order to produce better results in the classroom. He expressed reluctance in incurring new debt.
6. Mr. Hampton asked for elaboration about #2 on page 20 of the Facility Blueprint presentation. He also asked for elaboration on #16 on Page 21 related to meeting state standards for class sizes.
7. Mr. Hampton asked about funding for afterschool programs. He also made comments about creating the ESL to increase cultural competency.
8. Mr. Wood asked for details on the \$300M facility upgrades. Mr. Poore said that the figure came from the Facility study which was done in 2014. Mr. Wood asked to assurance that the District (teachers and staff) are not being distracted from focusing on academics.
9. Mr. Wood closed Board questions and reminded the Board that action will be taken at the next meeting scheduled on Tuesday, December 18, 2018.

IV. District Financial Picture

- A. Mr. Poore introduced Jack Truemper and Leigh Ann Biernat from Stephens, Inc.
- B. Mr. Truemper reviewed the Districts Millage Structure, the 5-Year Assessment History, Outstanding Bonded and Non-Bonded Debt, Debt Service Requirements. He also presented a Coverage Analysis, 5-Year Summary of Tax Collections, an LEA Financial Report. Then he presented three financing options: second-lien bond issue, voted extension and restructure, \$200M and 3.00 New Debt Service Mills. Mr. Truemper answered questions from the Board and the Superintendent.
- C. Mr. Wood asked questions about how the District would adjust the budget if a second-lien bond issue was adopted. He also asked for the cost of each percent of teacher raises. Mr. Bailey estimated that it would cost \$2-2.5 Million

V. LRSD Monthly Financial Report

- a. Kelsey Bailey, LRSD Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the District's budget including \$46.4 schedule planned capital improvement projects. Kevin Yarberry, Maintenance Director, said that the anticipated completion date is the summer of 2019 for the current project list. Mr. Bailey presented an overview of projected utility and cost savings which included details about energy utilization.
- b. Jeff Wood for details about how spending would be prioritized if the District exercised one of the financing options. Mr. Poore said the priority is to act on the plan for McClellan. Mr. Bailey said that another priority would be to enhance buildings in order to eliminate portables.

VI. LRSD Community Report

- a. Pamela Smith, LRSD Communications Director, presented the Community Report booklet. She said that the report has been delivered to the Post Office for mailing. It is also available on the District website under the Digital Backpack.
- VII. Community Comments - there were no comments from the community.
- VIII. Board and Superintendent Comments
 - a. Mr. Poore reminded the Board that the action item for the Facility Plan will follow the regular voting procedures.
- IX. Adjournment - The motion to adjourn was made by Anthony Hampton and seconded by Lupita Chavarria at 9:11 pm.