

RTM Education Committee Minutes
18 January 2017

Members present – Dennis Maroney, Young Sup- Lee, Janet Grogan, Susan Morrison, Jay Hardison, Emily McDermott, Derek Lublin, JoAnn Sawitsky, Pam Sparkman, Sandy Savage, Shannon Silsby, and Lucy Fiore,
Members absent – Ed Washecka, Ann Reed, and Barbara Thorne,

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM and discussion regarding Board of Education Budget

Questions for Darien Board of Education and Administration 2017-18 Budget

Curriculum Supervisors –

- What are the metrics of success or failure of the new positions?
- If they will be doing teacher evaluations, which will free up Asst Principals, what more extra responsibilities will the Asst Principals be undertaking.
- We are confused as to how we are able to fund the positions – could we have a clarification of where the money comes from.
- Will the supervisor have mentor responsibility to younger teachers?
- We think at teaching only 1 class the supervisors will lose touch with students
- The committee believes that the continuity mentioned between MSX and DHS could be done by staff development.
- If the Supervisors position is approved will this rectify the differences in classes across subjects. Meaning there are teachers who get through all material for midterms and finals and others that lack so some students are not as prepared for the midterm or final.
- Question of teachers teaching too few classes. How do we compare to our DIRG of how many classes do teachers teach.

Cafeteria

- Cafeteria currently holds 340 students for 4 waves - 1360 total. The largest estimated class is 1412 so a difference of 52 students. Those 52 divided by the four waves is 13 students per wave. So either we can look at the additional total of 80 more seats will cost us at the cheapest option being discussed is \$18,000 per seat or the need of those 13 seats it will cost \$110, 000 .
- How often does every student in the school eat in the cafeteria every day? Many eat in chill zone, learning centers, coaches offices, or students being out sick that would limit the total number of students in the cafeteria at any one day.
- In the scope of the projects the faculty cafeteria is being removed. How many seats could that encompass? Can we get 15 per wave that would make the difference.
- Another thought is to use benches as opposed to chairs and tables with single seats. University of Michigan has increased football stadium seating capacity not by

increasing size, but by making seats closer together. Can we swap out chairs for benches?

- Also the space could be optimized. We understand this is difficult as the senior section would be difficult for a freshman to sit, but should be looked at how we can best utilize the space.

- Our biggest concern is the scheduling of the waves. We are not sure the most efficient scheduling is occurring. Also the waves are not being enforced. Teachers who are in wave 2 will not send children until wave four if they are having a test or lab. The understanding of the committee is first and fourth waves are crowded, but waves two and three are not. We are not sure that wave one of English, reading, Tech Ed, Wave two Math, music, study halls, learning center, third wave, business, world language, social studies and fourth wave art, core, PE, Science and video are the best ways to divide. Study Hall is not in the schedule and teachers are not abiding by the schedule. Either it needs to be better enforced or better managed and should not be the major problem that we are told. Why not determine which specific classes together add up to 340 and have those classes be a wave?

Alternative School

- What data suggests the need for this school?
- Does the cost grow over time or reduce spending for out of district students?
- What style of learner will benefit from the school?
- Busing or transportation costs?
- Food costs? Nurse? Guidance counselor? Custodians?
- Are demographics of Darien similar to other areas where there are alternative schools?
- Would a dyslexic school, similar to Windward, serve more students as well as reduce the \$6 million out of district student cost? And be a better use of energy and funds?
- We are confused is this a school for 6-12 or an alternative High School?

Technology deployment

- Do all students in HS need to have an iPad? Is there an opt out program if they already have a computer or an iPad?
- What is the screen time for younger students? Does this conform to Pediatric recommendations?

Substitutes

- Can we use interns to reduce the cost of Subs?
- What is the break down of long term subs vs day subs, vs Professional development subs?
- Is there a breakout of subs per school?

Athletics

- Can we have a breakdown of cost per sport
- Should budgeting for State Finals for every team be standard?
- Additional Athletic trainer we think is a good idea
- Maintenance for Athletic Dept is located where?
- AD role of being on campus and accessible to students and attend games?

Our committee would like the Board and Administration think of 4 elements when evaluating this budget, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Transparency and Innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Maroney