

Ad Hoc Committee
Monday, October 24, 2016
BHS Media Center
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Tara Lerner at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Tara Lerner, Josh Flowers, Sue Slater, Glenn Rooney, Eve Sturdevant, Nadine Russo, Christine Zimmerman, John Barile, Lisa Gramling and facilitators Jim Ritchie and Tom Jokubaitis.

Absent: Paul Checco

Mrs. Lerner began the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and said this meeting would be more informational. Members introduced themselves and Superintendent Barile shared the charge of the committee. He explained the information that was given out to the members and shared some of his experience with building configurations from prior districts. He said the committee needs to look at enrollment trends and facilities.

Mrs. Lerner explained the committee is only looking at Center School, Huckleberry and Whisconier, not Brookfield High.

Mr. Jokubaitis spoke about the planning process and what programs would be needed in the next 10-20 years. He explained planning sessions, content and timeline. Upon completion, a full report of the Ad Hoc committee will be presented to the Board of Education.

Mr. Ritchie explained what the internal focus groups discussed and what their thoughts are, i.e. portables, population, technology infrastructure and storage space at the elementary level. Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Jokubaitis gave an example of expanding for the ELL population and whether that is a psychology decision or a teacher-driven decision. It was suggested that the committee set up some times to visit the schools to see what conditions look like.

Mr. Barile asked what stakeholder groups we need to formally set up focus groups. Mrs. Lerner wants more senior citizen representation and she and Mr. Flowers spoke about reaching out to Tony Licursi from the Lions Club. Focus groups such as IT, sports, SEPTA, ELL and Music and Arts should also be looked at. Other groups might also include moms club, high school freshman and college freshman, churches and police & fire. While everyone can't oversee the project, everyone can be heard and informed.

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will be held on Thursday, December 8th at 6:00 pm in the BHS Media Center. The date of Tuesday, December 13th has been held for inclement weather.

It was asked that Brookfield's class size guidelines be added to the draft copy of Number of Basic Elementary School Classrooms needed per grade/year that was prepared by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Jokubaitis.

Mrs. Zimmerman asked about the number of kindergarten students that go to first grade. Mr. Flowers asked if there is a plan for a study of existing facilities/viability study.

Mrs. Lerner will look at bus routes and PowerSchool. Discussion also included some districts having to hire new staff at the beginning of the year due to an influx of students (Ridgefield) while other districts are eliminating elementary schools (Bridgewater).

Mrs. Zimmerman said realtors should be included in the focus groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Lerner, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee