

Long-Range Planning Committee

October 10, 2022

4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

ESC Board Room

Attendees: Bob Colwell, Crysti Copp, Dave Culp, Terry Davis, Erick Hartzell, Diane Leiker, Brad Leitner, Lucie Stanish, Betty Timmer, Sonja Nix, Karen Johnson, Mike Lopez, Jack Reutzel, Nicole Moyer, Kathleen Ambron

Absent: Amanda Clark, Ralph Dergance, Bill Canterbury

Ad hoc attendees: Chardonnay Blair Adams, Linda Jones, Julie Mathews, and Marcy Phelps

1. Minutes approved by the Committee (motion by Jack; second by Betty)
 - a. Review/approve minutes more quickly in order to post to the website earlier
 - b. Send and approve electronically (Google Doc for committee to review/comment with changes and name at the bottom when approve)
 - i. Goal to approve and post before the end of the week
2. Debrief the community nights and feedback
 - a. Learning loss
 - i. Not unique to Ford
 - ii. Happening across the district, across the State of Colorado, and across the United States
 - b. Class size
 - i. Not unique to Ford (Sandburg's kindergarten, first, and second grade classes are larger than Ford's in smaller sized classrooms, as one example)
 1. Kindergarten classes at Ford, for example, average 25.4 students (127 kindergarteners divided by 5 kindergarten classes)
 - ii. There are classes of similar size throughout LPS, throughout the State of Colorado, and across the United States
 - iii. What is perception/anecdotal data vs. actual data
 - iv. What are school-level logistics vs. what is under the committee's purview to solve
 - v. Research shows class size is not one of the top predictors of student achievement/success in schools
 - c. Year-round school
 - i. Contracting with Littleton Education Association (negotiations take a year)
 - ii. Creates problems when families have students on more than one calendar (i.e., when one student is in middle or high school on a traditional calendar)
 - iii. Would create just as many problems as it would potentially solve, including unpredictability around enrollment (some families would hate the calendar and enroll outside of Ford; likewise some families would enroll at Ford specifically for the calendar)
 - iv. Makes PLCs impossible because at least one teacher is always "off"—and PLCs are one of the Board's highest priorities.
 - d. Portables
 - i. Board priority/commitment to not do portables for many reasons, including major ones:
 1. Security
 2. Bathrooms (running plumbing, septic, etc.)

- ii. Can't put portables on Ford's lot because of easement running under the fields; the only place you could put it is where the playgrounds are.
- e. Adding staff - more paras
 - i. If anyone knows of someone looking for a job, we are welcoming staff districtwide
 - ii. Ford is better staffed than some of our other elementary schools
- f. Growing pains of a new school
 - i. New staff working together (Ford staff is doing an excellent job)
 - ii. How does the lunch line work
 - iii. It takes a while to get to know students, especially in a big school, but it IS doable given time
- g. Board reduced staffing ratio at K-2 in order to have smaller class sizes recently
 - i. LPS does not "cap" class sizes because we are legally required to serve the students who live in that school's catchment area; the Board addresses class size through the staffing formula
- h. Limiting open enrollment (in- and out-of-district)
 - i. Open enrollment is not guaranteed for any student who doesn't live in that school's catchment area
 - ii. Schools balance their own populations according to Board policy
 - iii. This is potentially part of our report/recommendation to the Board
 - 1. Currently, open enrollment is needed at the upper grades, so it would need to be looked at on a grade-level basis
- i. Look at demographics of the whole district
 - i. Include a trend analysis
 - ii. Include feedback from Ford families: do they have younger children coming up? No more kids? Are they planning to stay in their home?
 - iii. Families offered to canvass neighborhoods to help identify what's coming up
- j. Messaging to the community
 - i. We have a responsibility to report to the Board with the community's feedback and the committee's analysis and response to that feedback
 - 1. Sharing class sizes of all grade levels at elementary schools
- k. Planning presentation to BOE (October 27 - finalize at next meeting)
 - 1. Capture that Ford has experienced a change this year due to:
 - a. A smaller outgoing 5th grade class (out May 2022)
 - b. A large incoming kindergarten class (in August 2022)
 - c. Resulting in an increase of 43 students as compared to last year
 - 2. See numbers for incoming kindergarten class when they're available in February
 - a. Using current LPS preschool numbers is not a reliable predictor of kindergarten enrollment
 - 3. Recommend to the Board: conduct a demographic study
 - a. Districtwide
 - b. Trend study along with it
 - 4. Address recommendation for open enrollment (both in- and out-of-district) for 2023-2024 school year
 - a. Remember that if we have a smaller incoming class of kindergarteners, this is okay and we should still recommend limiting open enrollment so we have the space to accommodate the larger (5-round) classes as they move up in grades. Number of classes per grade level may change from year to year.

- b. Upper grades actually need the currently open-enrolled students
 - 5. Provide a report with all community feedback and committee's analysis/response to major themes/new ideas
 - 6. Info/messaging to the community:
 - a. Board policies on open enrollment
 - b. "Littleton Public Schools 101"
 - i. Class sizes and staffing ratio
 - 1. Include data for potentially impacted elementary schools surrounding Ford
 - ii. Current bus travel times
 - iii. "How you do school" (for both students and parents who are new to elementary school experiences)
 - iv. "Growing pains" of opening a new school (staff relationships, lunch lines, etc.)
3. Adjourn

11 committee members approved these minutes as of end-of-day Wednesday, October 12, which is enough for approval.