

Seversky Study
Reese Road P.T.O. Meeting
September 9, 2009
NOTES/MINUTES

1. Number in Attendance – 19 (parents and faculty)
2. Presentation
 - Board of Education purpose in conducting the study (i.e. long-term planning for the K – 5 program)
 - Specific items included in the study
 1. enrollment projection
 2. analysis regarding the efficiency of using staff and resources
 3. options and recommendations for Board of Education Consideration
3. Summary of Findings
 - K – 12 enrollment should remain relatively steady, with a decline over the next few years
 - Business and/or residential expansion could reverse the expected decline
 - Live births have been decreasing, while the enrollment has remained relatively steady. This has resulted from migration into the district.
 - Within the next 3 – 5 years, district could experience a decreasing K – 5 enrollment.
 - District operates an efficient K – 5 program, with effective and efficient use of staff and resources.
 - District has available classroom space.
4. Scenarios Presented
 - Dr. Seversky presented several scenarios, ranging from keeping the current K – 5, two-building structure; to closing West Frankfort and having one campus elementary school at Reese Road.
 - Dr. Seversky presented opportunities and challenges for each scenarios. A brief discussion regarding these was held. Attendees were referred to the district website for a review of the document.
5. Questions/Comments/Concerns – Summary

Q: Date that Board of Education expects to make a decision
A: Target date of end of November 2009

Q: Will opinions of parents be considered?
A: Yes: Board welcomes community input.

Q: How will decision be made?
A: Ultimately, by Board of Education vote.

Q: What factors are important?

A: Enrollment

Costs related to the operation of the K – 5 program.

Q: If Scenarios E & F (K – 2, 3 – 5) options are selected, what are the bussing considerations:

A: This is an issue the Board is addressing.

A meeting is scheduled with Birnie Bus representatives to discuss routing/costs.

Q: Would a K – 2, 3 – 5 scenario consider a “Y” after school day care program?

A: This has been considered in the past, with little expressed interest.

A reconfiguration (K – 2, 3 – 5) might result in different needs for people.

A survey could be done to determine need; and, the feasibility of the “Y” to offer the program.

Q: If the K – 2, 3 – 5 scenario was selected, could students be bussed from West Frankfort to an after-school program at Reese Road?

A: Dependent upon bus routing and cost.

Q: Will the Board decision-making process involve the elimination of scenarios 1 by 1?

A: Board will consider all options and issues, focusing upon data, curriculum and program implications, costs.

Board also recognizes that these decisions could be difficult and emotional for some parents. The Board will be sensitive to this.

Q: If Scenario G (i.e. one campus: new construction) is approved by the Board, how will the project be paid? And, do the voters have a say in this?

A: Any building project will have to be approved by the voters.

A high percentage of state aid is currently available for new construction, although there is no guarantee as to what that level of aid will be in the future.

Q: If West Frankfort is sold, will that money be used for the project?

A: The intent would be to apply funds made available from the sale of the building toward the cost of a new project.

Q: Wouldn't the district save money with one campus, because of the difference in the cost of electricity between West Frankfort and the Village?

A: Yes, as the situation currently exists, Village Municipal power is less expensive than National Grid.

Q: Any chance of Grade 6 being returned to the elementary program?

A: Possible, depending upon the scenario approved by the Board: enrollment data.

The available space (for a K – 6 building); and a plan for the use of the subsequent vacated space in the Middle School.

The Board has been approached about this in the past.

6. Other Comments:

- No decisions have been made by the Board (Reina).
- One campus would be good, because it would eliminate competition and have everybody together.
- Current K – 5 enrollment numbers were reviewed.

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