

## Hillsdale Local Schools Strategic Planning Committee

### Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2015

#### Opening:

The May 11, 2015 meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was called to order at 6:30 by Superintendent Steve Dickerson.

#### Present:

Steve Dickerson, Margie Travis, Tom Selvage, Abbey Hoffman, Heidi Yeater, Lindsey Frank, Tom Williams, Vella King, Todd Grover, Jackie Holmes, John Holmes, Margaret Coleman, Jill Lifer, Sondra Hays, Pam Potter, Jerry Pracker, Nancy Pracker, Bruce Dalton, Jenny Stump, Dan Raudebaugh and Jason Chio were in attendance.

Mr. Dickerson thanked all community members present for attending and expressing his gratitude to the entire community for their recent support of the recent levy. He noted that the negative votes were down by 500 from the November election and praised the work of the Levy Committee and others for all the hard work to get communications out to the community.

He mentioned that work that had begun prior to the May election with the Curriculum/Academic, Guidance, Facilities and Technology committees but stressed that work needed to begin with the Finance Committee. It was determined that with the number of people in attendance, it might be better to combine the Facilities and Technology committees. Mr. Dickerson would like to have the 5 year plan of each committee in place before the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

The committee broke into subcommittees and a summary of discussions of each committee was submitted at the end of the meeting.

#### Guidance:

Todd Grover and Heidi Yeater

Six areas were identified for future guidance/career development

- 1.) Assessment test for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders with an optional test for 10<sup>th</sup> graders to provide areas that students might be suited for future careers.
- 2.) Host a career day for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to allow them to investigate future career opportunities.
- 3.) Conduct Professional Speech/Writing workshops or classes
- 4.) Offer Life Skills classes
- 5.) Offer CAD classes.
- 6.) Host visitations with local businesses and school partners to allow students to see what local business can provide as career options.

Another piece that was not added to the identified areas because the specifics would need resolved was to host local colleges together in a College Fair/Night or allow each to come during lunch or after school to identify class course work for each major/minor selection.

There will be an after school program that was generated from work of the committee that will begin on a trial basis at the end of this school year. There will be 4 sessions on Tuesday and Thursday to get issues worked out before implementing for next school year.

## **Facilities/Technology**

Tom Williams, Jerry Pracker, Bruce Dalton, Dan Raudebaugh, Pam Potter, Jason Chio

### **Technology:**

Tom Williams reported that there was approximately \$40,000 donated to the elementary school to purchase 5 laptops for each classroom. With the implementation of online testing, 180 computers were purchased with permanent improvement money to replace obsolete systems and create computer labs at the middle school and high school. The school is entering into an agreement to obtain E-Rate money that will pay to have all three schools made WIFI capable.

There was discussion about obtaining Chromebooks to assist with the online testing, classroom use, etc. Other schools such as Shelby have moved to all Chromebooks with great success. Need to investigate replacing outdated textbooks but could utilize EBooks if Chromebooks were available. There needs to be a full time technology coordinator to be present in the district on each school day.

### **Facilities:**

Elementary School and Middle School needs are very similar:

Teacher and Office computers need replaced, chairs for the computer labs, ceiling fans, LED projectors, mowers, some window replacements, painting the classrooms (summer help does this for \$8.10 per hour).

### **High School:**

The classrooms at the high school also will need painted. There is a problem with the back wall of the school. When the high school was built, the land was graded but the same technology present today for compacting the soil was not available and the land has settled causing a shift in the foundation wall. There should be short term fixes to prevent further shift with the hope of building an addition in the future. There was discussion about whether community members could help in this repair and if so, what is the ability to ensure the work is satisfactory.

The committee would like to prepare and maintain a facilities plan and a bus maintenance audit to determine how much we are spending on our aging bus fleet. New buses could cost less in saved fuel and maintenance costs.

## **Finance/Communications**

Margie Travis, Jill Lifer, Margaret Coleman, Vella King

### Finance:

Margie said her immediate goal was the preparation of the next 5 year forecast followed by the passage of the Permanent Improvement levy. The forecast was written with a flat line for revenues, increasing line item budgets for teacher supplies and software, cost of online classes, full time technology coordinator, new textbooks and 2 new buses which would be more cost effective in both fuel and maintenance.

This permanent improvement levy is NOT for general operating expenses and can only be used for items that have a life expectancy of greater than 5 years (e.g. Textbooks, buses, furniture). November of 2015 is the last chance to pass this levy. This levy was not placed on the ballot at the same time the operating levy but because of the age of our buildings, it is important that the permanent improvement levy passes. The levy was originally passed for 1.4 mills but is now only earning .57 mills or approximately \$118,000. For a homeowner of a \$100,000 home, the cost is \$1.46 per month or \$17.52 a year. As with the operating levy, this cost a homeowner NO NEW money and without it, the repairs needed to our aging facilities and replacement of our aging bus fleet will not be possible. The district is investigating E-Rate money to provide WIFI access in all the district's buildings but the cable will not be provided in the grant. The cost to run cable in all three buildings will be about \$48,000. The addition of WIFI access to our district is essential to provide online testing and to offer additional online class opportunities. The district could look at purchasing Chromebooks and utilizing EBooks instead of replacing outdated textbooks.

### Communications:

Margaret suggested that we obtain information regarding the history of all levies of Hillsdale stating the date they were put on the ballot, the type of levy, the millage, each time they were renewed and/or if they have expired. We could post this on both the school's website and the Strategic Planning Facebook page. Margie said she would contact the elections board and believed they could generate the report we need. A discussion about the district's website involved who could update (each teacher can create and maintain their page as long as it can be kept current), Mr. Dickerson stated he needs to get his superintendent's page created and he and Jenny Stump are the administrators for all the primary information posted. The site was designed is hosted by Tri-County Computer Services Association. The committee recognized that Jenny Stump has improved the site dramatically in the past few years with the current design constraints but that the site probably needs to be redesigned for easier navigation and to allow more information to be easily posted and searched for by community members and/or new community members looking for information about the district. Mr. Dickerson was also recognized for his collaborative efforts with Courtney Day of the Ashland Times Gazette in promoting activities and information regarding Hillsdale Local Schools.

## **Curriculum:**

Jackie Holmes, John Holmes, Nancy Pracker, Tom Salvage, Abbey Hoffman, Sondra Hays, Jenny Stump, Lindsay Frank.

It was determined that there is a need for a subcommittee of this committee to look at the needs of our special students in the gifted and special needs areas. Jackie and John Holmes will bring additional information and resources to the next meeting.

The committee created a list for their 5 year plan as follows:

--Outdoor School—Trevor Dunlap available to talk to us about this (Camp Nuhop) many schools do fundraising or could look at grant money?

--perhaps have Heidi Weller meet with us on possible grants that address curriculum and technology?

June meeting? Google Apps? Chrome Books?

--need for scheduling overhaul to maximize opportunities for kids and utilize shared resources—what can we do now? (Especially in the areas of library/media and technology; more coordination with classroom teachers on integrating these areas?)

2015-2016

--support recommendations on levy flyer—full-time technology coordinator, additional Agricultural/STEM instructor (split time at middle school and high school), upgrade of preK - 12th grade technology to be Wi-Fi compatible

2016-2017 (in order of priority)

--Middle School family and consumer science—financial literacy, career planning, cooking and sewing (semester each for 7th and 8th grade); 2 periods at high school if possible

--we would like to have 3 full-time music teachers

--we would like to go back to 2 full-time art teachers

--foreign language—if second language were added at high school, perhaps Mr. Griffin would be freed a couple of periods to teach Spanish at the middle school

2017-2018

--expansion of STEM/STEAM (hire 3rd agriculture/stem teacher to meet this need; maybe expand to elementary school)

--technology teacher—Easy Tech program is great, but another instructor is needed to teach the program at the elementary and middle schools; they need the application piece to be successful

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 after a summary of each subcommittee's work was presented to the entire committee.

**Next Meeting:** June 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm in the Hillsdale High School library. Please join us in planning the future of our community and school district. There is a committee for everybody's gifts to be utilized.