

Hillsdale Local Schools Strategic Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2015

Opening:

The August 10, 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, Vella King, Jackie Holmes, John Holmes, Margaret Coleman, Abbey Hoffman, Bruce Dalton, Jenny Stump, Sondra Hays, Brad Hays, Lindsay Bowen, Tim Keib, Kevin Reidy, Tom Williams, Dave Moore, Heidi Yeater, Nancy Pracker and Dion Bliss were in attendance.

Old Business:

Mr. Dickerson had the subcommittees review what they have been discussing since there was not a meeting in July.

Facilities: There have been a lot of permanent improvements done at all three schools. The age of our schools and the amount of maintenance and repairs needed is further indication the 1.4 mill permanent improvement renewal levy on the ballot this November is necessary. The levy currently is only collecting at .57 mill. This levy can only be used for purchases/maintenance items with a 5 year life expectancy. If this levy is renewed, there will not be another levy on the ballot until 2019.

Projects completed this summer:

High School:

- 1.) Ceiling replacement in the cafeteria and surrounding hallways (Half of the building has been finished excluding the classrooms). Some of the tiles that are still good have been saved to replace very bad tiles after the roof repairs are finished.
- 2.) Roof Repairs – two sections have been completely replaced and one section is being recoated by the staff. This should be done by the end of the week.
- 3.) Asphalt patch work and sealing. This is being done on a three year rotation so the other schools will be done next year.
- 4.) Cabling and access points for wireless connection is complete.
- 5.) Smart boards
- 6.) New laptops and 4 computer carts for the laptops.
- 7.) New textbook that have online components.
- 8.) Painting
- 9.) Purchased replacement desks, chairs, cabinets, bulletin boards and tables from auctions at Ashland, Crestview and Hudson. Some of our current desk were the ones put in the building when it was initially built. A used storage building was also purchased.

Middle School:

- 1.) Repair of front steps
- 2.) Cabling and access points for wireless connection is complete but needs a little modifications. This will solve the problem of the lack of computer labs that are useable by having 4 Cat6 lines and 1 Cat5 lines. The printer and one computer will be hosted on the Cat5 line and there will now be 6 computers on additional switches instead of 29 computers on one switch.
- 3.) Purchased replacement desks, chairs, cabinets, bulletin boards and tables from auctions at Ashland, Crestview and Hudson. There is still a need for some larger chairs to be replaced.
- 4.) New laptops and 4 computer carts for the laptops.
- 5.) White Boards and 5 Mimeo projectors have been purchased and delivered and will be installed by the first day of school.
- 6.) New textbook that have online components.
- 7.) Painting
- 8.) New bathroom partitions in both the boys and girls restrooms.
- 9.) New storage building for the mowers to replace the one that was not able to be repaired.

Elementary:

- 1.) 30 New laptops and 4 computer carts for the laptops. These laptops will replace outdated computers for the teachers, occupational and physical therapy, cafeteria and the offices.
– NOTE CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES ADDED BY JSTUMP, Webmaster....
This is actually 60 new computers – 30 in the back building, 30 for the areas specified above and an additional 4 computer carts with laptops, as at the other buildings.
- 2.) Painting
- 3.) Cabling and access points for wireless connection which will be completed by the end of this week.
- 4.) Purchased replacement desks, chairs, cabinets, bulletin boards and tables from auctions at Ashland, Crestview and Hudson.

The wall of the elementary school that was backed into by the Bookmobile will be repaired by the start of school. There is a wall in the high school that needs maintenance also.

Replacement of mowers at the elementary school and middle school are still being researched.

Transportation:

There is a need for a van and two replacement buses. Quotes will be requested for in-stock new buses.

Technology:

Based on a recommendation of the strategic planning committee, the district has hired a full time technology coordinator. Our new technology coordinator, David Moore, was introduced and he is getting acclimated to the schools and the computer systems and staff.

Curriculum:

Based on prior recommendations of the strategic planning subcommittee, Lindsay Bowen has been reinstated to teach additional agricultural classes including new engineering classes and a middle school component. Lindsay stated that there will be 9 week classes at the middle school and the 7th and 8th grade students will be rotated. The Avenues of Agricultural will be part of the curriculum along with introducing wood working. She and the middle school staff are cleaning out the old shop area at the middle school and will be ready when school starts.

Scheduling has been expanded to add one additional art period.

25 students are enrolled for online classes.

Finance/Communications:

Margie prepared the 5 year forecast at the last meeting.

The subcommittee wants to prepare a document explaining terminology about school funding and levies and a history of the existing levies of Hillsdale Local Schools.

Guidance:

The subcommittee is recommending that the Terra Nova assessment be given to both 2nd and 4th graders instead of the Stanford assessment in the 4th grade. They also reported the Aspire Assessment will be given in the 10th grade and will replace the ACT.

The after school program trial held at the end of the 2014-2015 school year was very successful with 14 students attending. Each session allowed some study time at the end of the time so they are looking to add student volunteers (Leo Club and National Honor Society) to tutor students that may need help.

Gifted Services:

This subcommittee is also looking at utilizing tutoring to help special needs students and is working on prioritizing their needs.

Steve Dickerson said there are groups that have not met yet and he would like to have goals and quarterly reviews by the end of this calendar year.

New Business:

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

Guidance:

The after school program will be running 3 – 10 weeks sessions and a year-end session of 7 weeks.

Facilities/Technology/Transportation

Technology:

A 5-7 year budget is needed for replacement and annual updates on computers. Investigating utilizing the Clicker Assessment for Teachers Software Package. Recommended using Turning Point, a student response system. Jenny Stump reported that the district has 10 sets and they will be taken to the middle school. There will be professional development for some teachers on this software. Margaret Coleman said her employer has 800 clickers and 4 or 5 readers that may be phased out and asked the school contact her to inquire.

Transportation:

A maintenance audit was requested from our bus maintenance provider, First Choice Mechanical, but it has not yet been received. One half of the fleet was inspected in May and the other half must still be inspected. One of those buses will not pass inspection so quotes are going out for two in-stock new buses on the 21st.

Finance/Communication:

Finance:

Margie reported the auditors have called and will be in the buildings soon for the annual audit.

Communications:

Margie prepared the levy history information and terminology. This was presented to the rest of the subcommittees to ensure it was easy to understand. There will be a few changes. Margaret suggested we do an audit of how communications are handled in the district. It was noted that the One Call phone calls was a good tool but could be expanded to notify of more than just school closings. There is a district newsletter but it is only distributed via students. There was discussion on setting up a person to contact for any resident to receive the district newsletter online. It was discussed if funding could be found to mail it to every household in the district at least once a year. Twitter was suggested as a possible avenue to reach more people and allow us to “shout-out” exciting things that are happening in the district.

Margaret also said there are at least 10 different FB pages with the name Hillsdale contained in the group’s name. We need to find the administrator of each page and see if they could share their information on the strategic planning page so there will

one place for all information on social media. The thought was the name of that page should be changed to something different since it is no longer just used for strategic planning posts.

The district website needs to be updated or recreated. Can we host elsewhere cheaper than through Tri-County Computer Services? If not, it needs redesigned to make navigation easier and include additional information. Steve Dickerson was requested to create a Superintendent's page where he could send out updates of things happening in the district that are important to the community. The principal's pages should contain more detailed information and if teachers are not going to maintain their pages, they should not be on the site. Steve will be working on a press release for the newspaper regarding the permanent improvement levy and how the district uses the monies and the necessity of its renewal. He will be working on content for his page on the district website. It was also suggested he prepare a State of the Schools presentation once a year.

Curriculum:

This subcommittee will revise future planning based on enrollment and funding. They are also looking at ways to use the staff that we have differently. They also mentioned that having one campus would eliminate travel time and allow more teaching time.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 after a summary of each subcommittee's work was presented to the entire committee.

Next Meeting: September 14th, 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.