



Elementary Reassignment Committee **AGENDA and MINUTES**

Date: Monday, October 23, 2017; 6:00 PM

Location: District Services Center, Community Room

Attendees: Kara DiLiberto, Amy Harwick, Bekke Kowalski, Colleen Miller, Diane Richino, Jon Sell, Becky Smith, Orathia Bradley, Eric Thompson, Nancianne Edwards

Unable to Attend: Sarah Litvinchuk, Stephanie Zajkowski

Committee Goal: Charge to the Elementary Reassignment Options Committee

The Committee is charged with (1) generating options for the reassignment of elementary students in the event Tohickon Valley Elementary School is closed; (2) evaluating those options based on: impact on academic program, impact on students and families, cost effectiveness, efficiency, impact on facilities, requirement for construction, renovations, or modular classrooms, impact on transportation, impact on personnel savings, and other criteria as the committee deems appropriate; and (3) to report its findings, decision matrix and recommendations to the Board no later than October 31, 2017.

Committee Norms:

Start on time, end on time

Respectful discussion

Share

Public Comment time at end of each meeting

Meeting Objectives:

- Complete descriptive statements for options not pursued
- Review draft presentation and identify changes/edits
- Present information about options (A2 particularly) to Tohickon Valley parents and answer their questions

Schedule [120 mins] – meeting ran over due to public questions/answers (175 mins)

Time	Mins	Activity
6:00 - 6:03 pm	3	Welcome

<p>6:03 - 6:10 pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>PFM Financial Analysis</p> <p>The PFM financial analysis/5 year budget projections are in process and should be completed by mid-week. The scenarios evaluated are as follows. All assume TV is closed, which is appropriate given the committee's charge.</p> <p>Scenario 1: Option A2, Neidig renovation/addition funded with method 1, taking exceptions in 2018-19 sufficient to afford the project and continued investment of \$1 million per year for the next 10 years</p> <p>Scenario 2: Same as scenario 1, with Neidig renovation/addition funded with method 2</p> <p>Scenario 3: Same as scenario 1, without taking exceptions</p> <p>Scenario 4: Same as scenario 2, without taking exceptions</p> <p>The scenarios will be presented at the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. so that the Finance Committee is up-to-date on the committee's likely recommendation.</p> <p>Ms. Edwards explained the various scenarios that Bob Riegel is putting together. Jamie Doyle, with PFM, will be attending the Finance Committee meeting for another topic, and will be available to answer questions the Board may have. The budget projections for A2 will be easy to adapt to provide cost information for any of the other options that were scored.</p>
<p>6:10 - 6:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Complete the descriptive statements for options not pursued</p> <p>The committee has already scored the options deemed viable for consideration. There are a number of options that were rejected after preliminary analysis. The committee wants to have a summary statement to explain why each of those options was not viable to consider for further analysis.</p> <p>The committee reviewed those options and articulated why they were not acceptable choices from the committee's perspective. Explanatory statements were added to the decision matrix in preparation for the Board's review and questions from the public.</p> <p>Options not considered:</p> <p>See decision matrix for summary statements of why an option was rejected in pink highlighted boxes (in grey-out areas). No change at Neidig, Trum or Pfaff with regard to classroom space or specials having to relocate.</p> <p>Bob Smith (audience) asked if consideration was given to the options with regard to special subjects (art, music, etc) would now be on 'carts' instead of using regular classrooms. He also asked about special education classrooms. The committee responded that those things had been considered, and reviewed the building principal analysis of available classroom space and the impact of adding additional regular classrooms. The impact is minimal at Neidig, which is already full, and at Trum. Mr. Thompson said that some of the reading and math itinerant support would be sharing space and it would be tight. The biggest change in student population would be at Pfaff</p>

		<p>compared to what they have now, with an additional 160 students (under Option A2), according to Mr. Thompson.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the differences amongst elementary buildings and how/where special subjects such as art and music were conducted. Committee members reminded the group that some schools have specials on carts and other do not, so that shouldn't be a consideration on whether or not to make a decision on redistricting right now. Some language was added to the Capacity section for A2 to clarify that in some buildings, specials are sharing space and/or utilizing carts and with the new redistricting, more of them will be, just so the Board is aware that is going on.</p>
6:30 - 7:15 pm	45	<p>Review draft presentation Power Point and add/edit/change</p> <p>Nancianne and Heidi shared a draft Power Point created as a starting point for the committee's presentation at the Board meeting on November 9, 2017. The general format is the same as the "Update" presented to the Board on September 28, with additional slides to further explain the options considered and details to support decisions made. There is more data provided on Option A2 with anticipation that will be the committee's recommendation.</p> <p>The committee requested a full map from Levy showing the entire district with building boundaries. We will request that from Levy's.</p> <p>It was noted to add a slide at the end of Option A2 that shows it is preferred ONLY IF the Facilities Plan is carried out with regard to Neidig renovation/expansion.</p> <p>A question was asked about the process of approving the committee's recommendation and if the board will vote on closing TV and the redistricting recommendation on the same night. Ms. Edwards shared that it is the intention of the administration to make the recommendation for redistricting and vote to close TVES in one board meeting. The goal is to present the Elementary Reassignment Options Committee's work at the November 9, 2017 Board meeting and then a vote would take place on December 7 to close TVES and adopt a redistricting plan.</p> <p>Ms. Edwards stated that the savings across the options regarding personnel and building maintenance costs would essentially be the same under all the options. There would be approximately 10 less classroom teaching spots with this redistricting, plus changes in elective area staffing. We do not know about attrition at this point, it's too early in the year; teachers are required by contract to give 60 days notice if they are leaving. However, there is no such requirement for retirement.</p> <p>Heidi will continue to update and refine the Power Point based on tonight's feedback.</p>
7:15 - 8:35 pm	80	<p>Draft presentation, particularly about Option A2, for Tohickon Valley parents</p> <p>Per the discussion at last week's committee meeting, Ms. Kowalski and Dr. Bradley invited the TV parents and staff to attend tonight's meeting to hear more information about the options under consideration, especially Option A2. Dr. Bradley communicated</p>

to all TV families about this opportunity via ConnectEd, in Canvas, and by sending home a flyer. Approximately 25 parents and staff members attended.

Ms. Edwards welcomed the parents and introduced the discussion. Looking back to last year's budget, the strategy of closing buildings was a consideration recommended to the Board as a way to conserve funds to provide the means to continue with the 2015 Facilities Plan. The committee was also very concerned that the Facilities Plan continue and factored that into their deliberations. Ms. Smith and Ms. Richino walked the audience through Opt A2, and then the committee took questions and discussed other options if there was interest. A proposed redistricting map developed by Levy Bus was provided to all attendees.

CAPACITY was discussed first. Under Opt A2, TV students would be disbursed among four of the schools. This would eliminate the need for modulars for Pfaff or Neidig, which would alleviate safety issues with modulars that were of concern to parents. The buildings will be tight across the board but no modulars (saving money on set up, rental and breakdown). Pfaff would be absorbing approximately 60% of TV students. If A2 is selected, the Neidig renovation would need to be done (a condition of recommending A2.)

Question: Would Kindergarten students would stay where they are? Mr. Thompson explained that all but 3 students would stay where they are with the redistricting plan.

Question: What happens with the closing of QE, how can Neidig handle the capacity? Why aren't we considering the longer-term? Ms. Edwards stated that consideration of future actions on behalf of the board was not part of the charge of this committee. This committee assumed the addition to Neidig and continuation of the Facilities plan when making this recommendation. The long-range plan is the same as the Facilities plan (growth is not projected in next 4 years). The long-term plan remains to build on the land, building a new elementary or middle school, at the point in time when growth dictates the need. The board has already authorized permitting and land development work on the land which will save us time and allow us to respond to growth by building relatively quickly. The closing of older buildings with redistricting is a temporary measure with relief of tight space by renovating Neidig. Ms. Kowalski stated the charge of the committee was to determine best option for the closing of TVES, anything beyond that is for future work and people to lobby the school board.

Question: Will this plan be proposed to the existing board or in Jan to the new board? Ms. Edwards stated the committee will be presenting on November 9, and a board vote in December so people are not left hanging.

Question: Would the new board make the decision on redistricting? Yes, the vote will be scheduled for December 7, after the new board members are seated. If the new board decides not to close TV, we would need to find another way to save \$1MM. It was noted that two board members have committed their vote to renovate Neidig, however, it was stated that those two board members are not guaranteed their seats. The committee

members stated that many of them also served on the Facilities committee and have put a lot of time into the process and truly care about the work of providing the best options for students and families. Ms. Smith said they have tried to be compassionate in understanding the feelings of the families and the impact to students. However, once the work leaves this committee they do not control the decision-making.

Comment/question: A TV parent shared that overcrowding of buses and lunch time is a concern. What will happen to the teachers and where will they be moved? There is a concern about class size and quality of education. Ms. Edwards stated that A2 increases class size by 1.5 students on average. All plans reduce the teaching staff by about 10 classroom positions and savings are realized there. Attrition will be used first, with furloughs if necessary. The administration is committed to minimizing furloughs and taking care of our people to the best of our ability.

Question: Once a decision is made, what plans will be made to help children adjust to a new school? Mr. Thompson stated that the last redistricting affected Pfaff and they have many strategies in place to help students acclimate. They try to group students together by neighborhoods, use of a buddy system, utilize staff from the sending buildings to welcome students with whom they are familiar.

Mrs. Smith continued reviewing the information in the decision matrix for Option A2.

Question: Why are we doing renovations to Neidig and not TV? The Age of Schools chart was shown to the audience. Neidig was originally built with expansion in mind, with room for another wing. Concern was given to not utilizing modulares due to safety concerns and students not crossing over roads. A fourth grade teacher at TV spoke and asked that the committee consider how often students have to leave the modulares due to weather (coldness) when changing classrooms. Option A2 does not require any modulares unless they are needed temporarily at Neidig during renovations.

FINANCIAL – The different options have different short term or temporary costs. From a cost effectiveness perspective, using modulares spends money on temporary solutions that delay the ability to move forward with the renovations identified in the Facilities Plan. The committee believes it is preferable to invest that money into our current buildings. If we don't ever take steps forward and improve our buildings, we will always be in the same position. While it's true our elementary schools will be tight for a while under Option A2, it will allow us to invest in our buildings.

Committee members expressed that the members really took every consideration into account and have worked diligently on a careful plan, even though nothing is perfect, it will be the best one they can produce. They have tried to do a good job of finding the best solution that impacts the least number of families.

Members of the audience asked some questions and also expressed appreciation for all of the time and work the committee members have put into developing the best solution

		they can.
8:35 - 8:35 pm	0	<p>General Public Comment (may include additional questions from TV parents)</p> <p>General public comments were interspersed amongst committee and audience discussion. Ms. Edwards asked if there were any more comments or thoughts by the public and hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.</p>
8:35 pm		<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Next Meeting: Monday, October 30, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:00PM at DSC</p> <p>The committee will finalize its presentation and plans for presenting to the Board at the November 9, 2017 Board meeting.</p>