

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Morrisville-Eaton District Advisory Committee

FROM: Jessica Cohen and Alan Pole

RE: Meeting Notes-Meeting of June 11, 2014

DATE: June 17, 2014

Present: Committee Members-David Andrews, Corinne Banker, Chris Brewer, Cynthia Busic-Snyder, Chris Doroshenko, Debra Dushko, Kyle Graves, Lauren Haswell, Jennifer Hilts, Jessica Jacobs-Broedel, Valerie Kampf, Danielle Kochman, Cooper Koehl, Les Kraft, LeeAnne Lake, Sarah Marcellus, Jamie McCarthy, Michelle Morgillo, Judy Parker, Jennifer Pierce, Emilie Roher, Kathy Roher

Consultants: Jessica Cohen and Alan Pole

Observers: Michael Drahos, Debra Everson, Jackie Groves, Nikki Doroshenko, Steve Goodfriend, Dan Heukrath, Jennifer Banker

Location: Middle/High School

1. Superintendent Mike Drahos welcomed everyone to the meeting and again thanked the committee for its service. He then introduced Dan Heukrath, an architect with Ashley and McGraw, who has been the district's lead contact for facilities matters.
2. Alan Pole also welcomed everyone to the meeting, distributed the attendance sheets, and reminded everyone about the meeting protocol. He also reviewed the upcoming committee meeting dates and the main topic that will be covered at each of the meetings. It was agreed that all future meetings would be held at the Middle/High School.

<b>Meetings Begin at 6:00 pm</b> <b>**Tours Begin at 5:15 on May 15 and June 11</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 23	Organization, Overview, and Enrollment Projections	MS/HS
May 15	Instructional/Extracurricular Program**	Elementary
June 11	Facilities & Transportation**	MS/HS
July 23	Staffing	MS/HS
August 20	Finances	MS/HS
September 17	Options	MS/HS
October 1	Review Findings & Recommendations/React to Draft Report	MS/HS

3. Alan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May 15 meeting notes. There were none.

4. A memo sent to the committee reviewing answers to questions raised at the May meeting was reviewed. Discussed were the information on costs for students to attend and be transported to CTE courses at BOCES, attendance at the alternative high school at BOCES, number of special education classes, athletic participation and enrollment projections. The committee had no questions regarding the memo.

5. Alan and Jessica presented a PowerPoint presentation that covered a number of issues related to facilities and transportation including:

- ✓ the overview of the buildings
- ✓ the number of elementary classrooms
- ✓ high school room utilization
- ✓ current room utilization in both schools for the 2013-14 year
- ✓ elementary school floor plan
- ✓ preliminary budget for moving the elementary school to the high school before state aid
- ✓ bus fleet and bus runs
- ✓ implications and costs of moving from double bus trips to a single trip system

Questions were asked about the number of classrooms, the need for additional cafeteria space, whether a new kitchen was included, and the

size of the new gym and whether bleachers were included. Corrections to the number of bus runs were also made.

6. The highlights/”takeaways” from the presentation on facilities and transportation were:

- ✓ ***For the most part, decreasing enrollment has meant smaller class sizes not a significant reduction in the number of classes offered.***
- ✓ ***To move the elementary school would require the addition of at least 24 classrooms, a gym and a cafeteria.***
- ✓ ***The estimated budget for the addition of the elementary school to the high school is approximately \$20 million before state aid.***
- ✓ ***Moving from a double trip busing system to a single trip system can occur whether the district has one building or two.***
- ✓ ***Moving to a single trip system will most likely be revenue neutral because of the high state aid for transportation for Morrisville-Eaton.***
- ✓ ***The difficulty in finding bus drivers will present problems if the district went to a single trip system.***

7. Committee members were asked to review the “Takeaways” and identify additional items that might be added and any questions that were raised. The following items were identified as additional thoughts to consider:

- ✓ The implications for moving elementary school students to the high school are very different from moving additional high school students into the building. The building could “absorb” 200 more high school students into existing classes but is not large enough to add 26 additional elementary classrooms.
- ✓ The cost of maintaining and updating the current buildings must be considered as we estimate the cost of combining the two buildings.
- ✓ Rescheduling lunch periods should be considered to alleviate the need to expand the cafeteria.
- ✓ Could fewer than 24 classrooms be added if more sharing was done at the high school level?

- ✓ In designing the new facility, don't fall short now and then regret it later.
- ✓ More detail is needed on the budget estimates for moving the elementary school.
- ✓ Best practices from other local districts having a single Pre-K – 12 building should be researched to help develop the Morrisville-Eaton program.
- ✓ Whether the elementary school is moved or not, significant change will have to occur in order to secure the financial and academic future of the district.
- ✓ We need to look very differently at how we teach and the implications that might have for facilities.

8. The members of the public were then invited to ask questions and/or make comments.

We believe this covers the essence of the discussions at our meeting on June 11. If you have questions with these notes, please feel free to contact us. We will also review these notes as the first agenda item at our next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Looking forward to seeing you again for our next meeting that will focus on staffing. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at the Middle/High School at 6:00 pm!

C: Michael Drahos