

Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Minutes

Intended Outcomes

- Review data shared and discuss options for the District
- Discuss community engagement plans
- Identify co-facilitators who will help plan agendas, facilitate meetings and present to the Board in March

Review of Shared Documents

- Handout distributed on fee comparison
 - o Committee member asked for enrollment numbers to divide cost/student
 - o D89 does not set fees per student
 - Cautioned raising fees too high, more families apply for fee waivers
 - Fee waiver fees are lost.
 - Some reimbursement from free and reduced lunch (NSLP)
- Approximately 80% of District 89's expenditures is people (salaries/benefits)
 - o Projected increase of 8.8 FTE over next four years
- 92% of revenue comes from taxes

Facilitation Questions

- Committee members worked in table groups to brainstorm conversation points for bolded questions below. Bulleted list represents discussions by committee members, not recommendations.
 - What are your thoughts on the information provided regarding consolidation?
 - Need willing partner
 - When looking at other surrounding elementary districts; D89 is already spending below the average, not much available savings
 - Could be compromising academic success/outcomes
 - Time consuming; could it be done in time to address current issues
 - What would you inherit from other district
 - Down road could be attractive with one town in same district
 - Would size be manageable
 - Not consolidate but team with other districts for financial savings
 - Busing, special education (already doing)
 - Might lose some of what we value most about CCSD89 (sense to community, welcoming)
 - Consolidation tends to come up when we have a money issue but not when we don't
 - Consolidation is not a solution to this problem
 - What are your thoughts on the information provided foundations and endowments?
 What are the key takeaways?
 - Great vehicle to give back to the school/community
 - Would need to define parameters
 - In tandem to whatever other options is selected
 - Cannot rely on; supplement

- What are your thoughts on the information provided regarding program costs and fees? What are the key takeaways?
 - Need to come up with \$1M savings and must be a recurring savings
 - Decisions/recommendations need to be aligned to Strategic Plan
 - Have to remember impact to student environment and what is valued in CCSD89
 - Investigate fee for full-day Kindergarten
 - Questioned about what research says when fees are assessed for full-day Kindergarten
 - ✓ Research focuses on impact of full-day Kindergarten academically and socially especially for those children from low-income families
 - Increase to Fees
 - Raise \$10-\$15 tech, \$5-\$10 book, \$5-\$10 athletic: Yields approximately \$40K-\$60K
 - Increase lunches by \$0.50: Yields approximately \$190K (must stay in food)
 - Certified Reductions
 - Understanding the role of RtI, Gifted, Psychologist (at grade school)
 - ✓ Possibly start Challenge at a later grade level or restructure program
 - Sports at Middle School
 - ✓ Intramurals fill with volunteers
 - New Bonds for energy improvement
 - To use bonds for long-term energy savings in the buildings
 - Pick some pieces
 - Reduce Physical Education a little
 - Put Health into the PE curriculum
 - Non-certified LMC aides
 - Foreign Language
 - Class sizes
 - One table group worked on assigning a number on each item as what was the cost impact vs. student impact then to add community impact. Couldn't find any item where the cost savings was great with little impact to students.
 - Committee felt there are three options:
 - Tax Referendum
 - Cutting some programs
 - Doing nothing

Community Engagement

- Unicom Arc partnership to enhance community engagement
 - o Board approved an agreement at February 12th Board meeting
 - Specializes in outreach to community; especially non-student
 - o All community members
 - Variety of outreach opportunities
- Committee Leadership (mentioned not selected)
 - Co-facilitators two members
 - Agenda plan
 - Assist in meeting facilitation
 - Present to Board

Post-It Activity

- Are there programs/services you feel CCSD89 could offer that they currently aren't?
 - o Additional aide support in Kindergarten classrooms

<u>Absent:</u> Dawn Bussey, Kellie de Leon, Jay Lerch, Victor Moore, Greg Smaistrla