

## **Review of February 21<sup>st</sup> Takeaways**

- Establishing a foundation to support needs within CCSD89 is a good idea, however is not a solution to the current issue of deficit spending. A foundation can help support initiatives in the classroom and provide alumni the opportunity to give back to the community.
- Consolidation is not an immediate solution to the current issue of deficit spending. Consolidation with one other elementary district does not provide financial benefits. CCSD89 values its identity and this would be lost with consolidation. Additionally, all districts must be on board to pursue consolidation. Consolidation of all Glenbard feeders and the high school could potentially yield financial savings, but also has the potential to reduce the number of elementary schools needed.
- Group discussed potential reductions to decrease expenditures, noting nearly all reductions impact the classroom and are in conflict with the strategic plan and what the community values about the schools.
- Group discussed increasing fees for registration and possibly full-day kindergarten. An increase in registration fees could increase revenue by approximately \$40K. Increasing kindergarten fees would impact who could/would attend full-day kindergarten.
- The district has a history of fiscal responsibility. Any further cuts could have a dramatic impact on the identity of the district. Any changes might have large ramifications. For instance, cutting PE time would not only affect PE teachers; it would also affect planning time for other teachers.

## **Intended Outcomes for February 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

- Continue discussion related to district options for projected deficits
- Discuss options for moving forward and provide an evaluation of options
- Understand how Unicom will help the District regarding community engagement
- Identify co-facilitators who will help plan agendas, facilitate meetings and present to the Board in March.

## **Superintendent Tammaru showed Committee Data on Projected Deficits**

- Minimum \$734K projected deficit each year for the next five fiscal years.
- Cash on hand could be below 3% at the end of five years.
- Committee members ask about what drives revenues for district.
  - New growth, CPI have the biggest impact on revenues.

## **How have Budget Cuts affected District?**

- In 2011, Finance Committee looked at what could have happened if the district did not begin budget cuts.
  - Could have had \$861,360 fund balance by 2017, but \$3 million in cuts have kept the fund balance relatively consistent.
  - The district also avoided taking out tax anticipation warrants to cover deficits.
  - This first round of cuts (eight years ago) eliminated areas that were furthest removed from the student experience.
  - Since 2011, the district has 169 more students, 6.2 fewer teachers.
- The district would be spending \$8M more today if there hadn't been nearly \$3M in reductions and cost containments since 2011.
  - Committee asks how to get this message out to community

## **The Committee looked at Data on how Expenses are Outpacing Inflation**

- Latest teacher contract helped steady finances
  - Annual base salary increases tied to the CPI-U (agreed to in 2013)
  - Uniform step and lane-change increases
  - Years to maximum salary increased from 14 to 24 years in CCSD89
    - Committee members request average salary of CCSD89 and surrounding districts and starting salaries of teachers compared to surrounding districts.
    - Superintendent Tammaru notes that CCSD89 data is affected by few recent retirements. She expects average salaries to drop in next few years.
    - Insurance increases also outpacing inflation. Committee asks for more information on insurance costs.

## **Review of Options A, B, C, D**

Committee requests that the district add a box to chart that would show impact on community. (For instance: home values would go down if the quality of school decreases.)

Committee asks about paying for kindergarten. Can there be a tiered system for paying? If your household income is a certain level, you would not have to pay?

## **Evaluating OPTION A: Increase fees and reduce expenditures to balance budget**

### **Positives**

- Don't have to approach voters for referendum
- Charge fees to people who are using the services
- Board has already been doing a good job
- Only partial reduction of services, rather than elimination
- District is handling its own issue

### **Negatives**

- Raising fees has limited potential, not a long-term solution
- Impacts students
- Families with younger kids could become disillusioned about what will be cut in the future
- If you cut enough programs, you could affect property values
- Not left with school district we want. Does not align with Strategic Plan.
- Reduces security of families, reduces trust in the district.
- Could affect ability to attract the best teachers
- Larger class sizes affect best instructional practices. Huge impact on learning.

Superintendent Tammaru pointed out that people have choices when they are looking at homes in the Glen Ellyn area. The district office gets calls from people who are looking to move to the general area, and are comparing the different districts.

Options B (Increase revenue to maintain), C (Increase revenue to enhance), and D (No change) tabled till next meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

## **Rod Wright from Unicom Arc Introduction**

- Unicom Arc has been in business for 50 years.
- They are based in St. Louis but do extensive work with Illinois school districts.
- They work on community engagement, and all sorts of communications: brochures, social media.
- If the community is involved in the process, they are more likely to support a board recommendation. Goal is to give people as many opportunities as possible to give feedback and receive information in as transparent a way as possible. Could host all-are-welcome community engagement meeting.

- Can help with answering difficult questions.

### **Co-facilitators**

- Mike Lullo and Steve Neurauter volunteered to be co-facilitators.

### **Possible Additions to District Discussion**

- Dual-language programs
- Additional field trips
- In-house staff teaching coaches
- Science and technology education coaches at elementary
- Facility improvements

*Absent: Penny Borello, Alicia Cieszykowski, Victor Moore, Julie Nolan, Sally Swiss*