**MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE – FACILITIES/FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**April 13, 2016**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requires minutes for all school committee and subcommittee meetings.  The recorded minutes are open to the public for inspection within 10 days of the meeting. Minutes recorded provide a brief overview that reflects the subject matter discussed and any decisions made.  If any motions are made clearly state the motion and indicate who made the motion and who seconded the motion.  Record who was in favor, opposed, or abstained.  The names of any person(s) appearing before the committee are to be indicated.

**Date:**  Wednesday, April 13, 2016 **Time:** 6:00p.m. **Place:** Sanderson Academy Art Room

**Subommittee Members in Attendance:**  John Payne, Martha Thurber and Lark Thwing

**Committee Members Not in Attendance:**  None

**School Committee Members in Attendance:**  Lori Grant, Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Emily Robertson,

**School Administration:** Michael Buoniconti [Superintendent[, Mike Kociela [Business Manager}

**Others in Attendance:**  Ken Campbell [Buckland], Lynn Kelsey [Buckland], Kate Barrows [Colrain]

**Documents:** April 5, 2016DraftMinutes Facilities/Finance Subcommittee

**Call to Order:** Lark Thwing called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Martha Thurber, seconded by Lark Thwing, the BEST Finance/Facilities Subcommittee voted to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2016 meeting. John Payne abstained.

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Review Consolidation Options**

The Subcommittee reviewed with the Mohawk Budget Subcommittee the four options Lark Thwing and Martha Thurber had felt at the last meeting were worthy of further review. These included:

OPTION A

- Retain PK-3 (or PK-1, or Pre-K-2) at all of the existing elementary schools

- Move the remaining elementary grades to BSE

- Move all grade 6 to Mohawk to become part of the middle school

- Work with towns to re-purpose available space in elementary schools (not including BSE)

OPTION B

- Retain PK only (or PK-1, PK-2) at Colrain and Heath (with parents responsible for transportation)

- Redistribute remainder of elementary students to BSE and Sanderson based on geography (which school is nearest), not town lines

- Move all grade 6 to Mohawk to become part of the middle school

- Work with Heath and Colrain to re-purpose available space in elementary schools

OPTION C

- Build new elementary school on Mohawk campus

- Move all PK-5 to new elementary school

- Integrate all grade 6 within the Mohawk middle school

- Work with towns to re-purpose available space in elementary schools

The Subcommittee noted that this option is encumbered by several key threshold issues, including:

1) The cost of building new facilities at Mohawk and the willingness of towns' and the MSBA to fund new construction;

2) The willingness of parents of pre-K and potentially other lower elementary grades to bring/bus their kids to Mohawk campus;

3) The willingness of MSBA to forego the “clawback” provisions of existing outstanding mortgage debt if school buildings no longer served any educational purpose.

OPTION D

- Invite Hawlemont into the District, perhaps with incentives to offset concerns about local control, such as

some form of hybrid school committee structure (subject to DESE approval).

- Retain PK only at Colrain and Heath (with parents responsible for transportation)

- Redistribute remainder of elementary students to BSE, Sanderson and Hawlemont based on geography, not town lines

- Move all grade 6 to Mohawk to become part of the middle school

- Work with Colrain and Heath to re-purpose available space in elementary schools

Nina Martin-Anzuoni noted that the state agencies she had contacted with respect to potential funding for senior housing in Colrain had only been interested in projects much larger than would be feasible for Colrain. Martha Thurber suggested that private and/or private/public options might be possible and should be explored.

**Process for Posting/Media Release**

The Subcommittee then discussed options for publicizing these ideas and generating public dialog. Martha Thurber said her intention was to draft a press release outlining the ideas for distribution within the next few days. This could be published on both the Mohawk and BEST websites. Emily Robertson suggested Principal Lynn Dole’s bi-weekly newsletter would be a good way to reach MS/HS families. Ken Campbell suggested that all information make it clear than no changes can be made without the unanimous approval of all District towns. He also suggested creating a “fact sheet” outlining the rationale for the ideas presented.

The Subcommittee then discussed the timing for the additional analysis needed. Superintendent Buoniconti indicated that the District Leadership Team would be asked at its April 14th meeting to analyze and discuss the educational ramifications and that analysis likely would take 2-3 weeks. He also estimated needing a week to review building capacity and class sizes. Mike Kociela and Superintendent Buoniconti will work together on the initial financial analyses, which should take 3-4 weeks. The Superintendent also will need time to discuss transportation implications with Mohawk Facilities Manager Robin Pease, who is also working with the BEST Transportation Subcommittee.

**Other**

Ken Campbell is continuing his efforts to assess vocation programs currently offered at district and nearby schools, the number of students enrolled and where the students come from.

It was agreed that the Subcommittee should wait to meet again until the efforts now underway were completed.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Martha Thurber, seconded by John Payne, the Subcommittee voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: TBD

Submitted By:

Martha Thurber