

Mrs. Debbie Kuter, President – Presiding

PRESENT: Ms. Fadgen, Mr. Incoronato, Mr. Locicero, Mr. Porpora,
Mrs. Resk and Mr. Shravah

ABSENT: Mrs. Falcone and Mrs. McCarthy

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Powell, COS, Mr. Barczak, Mr. Crosson, Mr. Nuchman,
Mr. Waer and Mr. Abramson

There were approximately 100 persons in the audience – Members from the Master Plan Steering Committee were in attendance.

Mrs. Kuter opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

CALL TO
ORDER

Mr. Powell thanks all those present for attending. He starts by stating the charge of the committee.

CHARGE FOR
COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District charges the District Master Plan Steering Committee with the responsibility of developing options for a district-wide master plan for the Board of Education's consideration. The final report shall be provided to the Board of Education by June 1, 2004.

States that committee should be looking at –

Class size
Building size
Programs – full day kindergarten

At the last meeting we formed four sub-committees as follows:

Full-day kindergarten
Inter-agency Cooperation
Visionary
Communications

Mr. Abramson - we are looking long term to solve the educational needs of WCSD for the next 5, 10, 15 years to come.

DIALOG WITH
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

Class size – school has x number of available class rooms. We need direction from the Board on how many students you want in a class room – where would you like to be?

How big do you want your schools to be? Should we add onto our schools in the south? Or should we look at an alternative.

Mr. Powell – we need parameters not specifics.

Mr. Abramson – maybe the Board would consider a specific grade alignment throughout the district. If you choose to add on to your existing buildings there is a lot of infrastructure work that needs to be done.

Mr. Waer – you had a building condition survey done a few years ago – we have some documentation of the facilities infrastructure already. Mr. Barczak is keeping some records – five year plan, capital improvements.

Mr. Shrivah – thanks all members. The most important issue – we have more children – there is a need to build a new school – develop a plan than is academically sound. We should tell the committee that this is the direction we are going in.

Mr. Inoronato – grade alignment – I am in favor of K-4, 5-8, 9-12. I am not in favor of full day kindergarten. We should look at the start times for the high school students.

Mrs. Kuter – I am not in a position to tell committee members that K-4, 5-8, 9-12 is the way to go. That is why we have administrators. I want the committee and the staff to give me that information.

Mr. Porpora – I am concerned that the committee members are not getting the information they ask for. (To committee – you should get what you ask for. I want to wait for you to use your expertise to advise us.)

Mrs. Resk – I appreciate the work the committee members have done. Hopefully the committee is looking at our academic programs, space and grade alignment. The inter-agency committee

is recognized by state. Regents are recommending 5-8 grade alignment. You need to recommend what you want as a community not what you think we will recommend.

Ms. Fadgen – I would like to spend time listening to the committee not telling them what they should do. Cost notwithstanding, I disagree with Joe Incononato on full day kindergarten. Full day kindergarten helps to transition students – bridge program.

Mr. Abramson – I would like to sit down with Lloyd on grade level. We can make some recommendations to the Board. The district has lost out on not having full day kindergarten. We can begin putting scenarios together and bring it down to a reasonable number.

School – class size
Value of full day kindergarten
Facilities

We can develop scenarios for committee to consider.
Next meeting is January 14th and February 11th – we expect to come to committee with strengths and weaknesses.

Mr. Locicero – we need to look at short and long term goals. We need to have some guidance from central office.

Mr. Abramson – whatever facility decisions are made, you will need to get into redistricting – but this is a facilities Master Plan.

Mr. Shrivah – I think before we start building we need to redistrict. We will tell parents 3 years in advance that they will be redistricted. The Board makes all the decisions. The committee should give us different scenarios – personally I support K-4, 5-8, 9-12.

Mr. Locicero – we need to bring our current buildings into the modern world – to computerize class rooms – virtual rooms – add space now. Explore different grade alignments and class sizes. Don't back yourselves into a corner.

Mrs. Resk – I never went into this that this is a facilities Master Plan – if that is where this is going I totally misunderstood.

Several committee members were confused over whether this is a facilities plan – the committee members can give 80 different scenarios – clarification is needed – concrete info. is needed so we can move forward.

Mr. Powell – to make matters clear – the chairman of this committee is Mr. Abramson. The info. from tonight’s meeting is good input. I’ve always spoken about how we can bring our schools up to code.

Mr. Shrivah – the committee wants to hear what direction to go. We should tell them how many scenarios we want to see.

Mr. Locicero – I would say 2-3 scenarios. I would like to see 1-2 more options.

Mrs. Kuter asks Mr. Abramson if he has what he needs to move forward. Mr. Abramson replies – yes.

Karen Long (committee member) – grade alignment – need direction.

Mrs. Kuter – I don’t have that figure. I have not heard from my Superintendent of Deputy Superintendent.

Mr. Porpora – I don’t want to lose track of the fact that Mr. Abramson is a “consultant”.

Mr. Powell – I’m looking at the committee to challenge Mr. Abramson’s data. What’s good for WCSD & then make a recommendation.

Ms. Fadgen – I want all committee members to be heard – even if they have an opposing viewpoint.

Mr. Incoronato – I want to see a cost benefit analysis.

Mr. Porpora moved, seconded by Mr. Shrivah, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote taken. Unanimous approval. Time is 10:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Penney
District Clerk