

Board Retreat 2

Mission:"Engaging All Learners to Achieve Success"

The Board Retreat 2 started at 6:00 PM on Monday, September 12, 2022. The meeting was held at

Columbus Public Schools Administration Building
2508 27th St.
Columbus, NE 68601

Candace Becher:	Present
Mark Brown:	Present
Michael Jeffryes:	Present
Doug Molczyk:	Present
Theresa Seipel:	Present
Douglas Willoughby:	Present

I. Committee As A Whole

I.A. Call to Order

I.B. Roll Call of Board

I.C. Pledge of Allegiance

I.D. Notice of Open Meeting Posted

I.D.1. President insures all can hear proceedings

I.E. Board Special Functions

I.E.1. RSP & Associates Study Discussion

There was discussion on why the enrollment projections were much lower than expected based on the data we are actually seeing in the Columbus with growth in the community. The report shows the most growth in elementary schools not middle and high school.

I.E.2. Notice and Wonder Statements

The Board shared their notice and wonder statements based on information from the report. Conversations included changes to our numbers when the casino opens, birthrates in Columbus, projected greatest growth areas and the possibility of area attendance boundaries being moved to alleviate future overcrowding in elementary buildings.

I.E.3. Facility Action Planning

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz, Superintendent, offered information on some short term fixes and added that once Kramer opens and preschool is moved, it will open up a small amount of space at most of the elementary buildings. He also said North Park, Emerson and West Park still use one space for a gym and cafeteria, adding an eating area to these buildings would be very beneficial. Dr. Loeffelholz also mentioned that adding classrooms to those buildings would be easy. He also said floor plans for cafeterias and some classrooms have already been created from the last time space was in question.

Questions about needing the remodel/additions along with an additional new school were discussed. The board members also say they still get comments and questions about having the fifth graders in the same building with the eighth graders. Another question is how large does the district want the elementary enrollments to become? The happiest teachers we have seem to be at Emerson and West Park, our smallest school sites.

When discussing the middle school, they will need more cafeteria space for student lunch periods.

Dr. Loeffelholz asked the Board, are you looking at short-term solutions or 10-20 year solutions? The goal is to look long term for CPS. When the decisions were made to build a new high school and to create the Kramer Education Center, those were long term solutions.

People would like us to be everything to everyone, but we may not be able to do that because of budgetary constraints. CPS needs to remember the CORE services, which includes programming at every level in the district. We are short some programming and staff. The discussion on more programming led to our EL programming and the need to hire another person. There are more students that need special education services, some buildings are ill-equipped in some areas. The goal would be to take care of some of these issues earlier and possibly have less programming at the middle school and high school for these services. The percentages at CPS are 20% special education and 18% EL.

Dr. Loeffelholz requested that the board share what their dreams would be if money was not such a large factor. Discussion continued on those ideas, add to the elementary buildings, build a new elementary school, add a fifth and sixth grade wing at CMS, and add 12 rooms to CHS.

Additional ideas were to create an alternative school, add all the programming needed for special education and EL, and build a sports complex.

I.E.4. Financial Discussion

Mr. Kay shared some information on the financial part of making more space for our students. He shared cost of building a new elementary school and additions to existing buildings. He said right now bond rates are high, but they can be refinanced, he will monitor rates. CPS has bonds that will be retired in December 2022.

I.E.5. Next Steps

Dr. Loeffelholz said the next steps would be to make a list based on conversations about the priorities. He recommended we get an RFP with an architect for cost estimation. Look at how much we could request in bond funds and how much if 1.5 cents were added.

Community meetings will need to be scheduled, participants will be asked what their dreams would be, they may have different ideas.

I.E.6. AASPA Discussion

Chip Kay, Director of Finance and Human Relations said he has been asked to speak at the AASPA Conference in Orlando, FL. He is requesting the Board give him permission to attend the conference at very little cost to the district. Most of the cost would be paid by UpBeat.

I.F. Adjourn

Adjourned at 7:54.

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified Secretary for the School District No. 1 of Columbus, Nebraska, certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting of Monday, September 12, 2022.

President

Secretary