

Prospect Elementary School Site Based Committee Meeting Minutes

Called to order by Principal Kim Chinnis

Approval of previous minutes- approved by Kim Kristufek

Second by: DeAnn Romero

Open Issues- None at this time

New business-

- 1) Input on district school size requested by Ms. Chinnis
 - Ms. Chinnis provided data on school size for all of Union County from 2005, 2010, and current school year
 - School size is being discussed because of redistricting and determining buildings being renovated as well as additional schools being built
 - Currently it is projected that Union County will be paying 40 million dollars on roofing, 20 million dollars on elementary schools and 80 million on middle and high schools
 - The current Prospect Elementary construction plan consists of 8 million dollars in renovation

UCPS provided the following numbers for estimated school size, saying that they needed a starting point

- 1000 students for elementary
- 1600 students for middle school
- 2200 students for high school

-Ms. Chinnis made note that when considering school size be reminded that several (typically 4 or 5) elementary schools feed in to a middle school and a high school.

-Ms. Chinnis also informed committee that middle school and high schools have higher enrollment numbers than an elementary school for several reasons. Example: students go to private elementary schools.

-Question was asked about if there is an increase in the number of students in a current school, what would happen?

--Chinnis responded that schools will need to add on to accommodate not necessarily build a new school.

When determining a school size number committee stated that it depends on the specific school and how they would need to accommodate an increase in numbers

Teacher made mention there are current concerns at schools such as Western Union that are sharing classrooms with other teachers already.

-How would this be handled if there were to be an increase in numbers, would this be happening?

A teacher made mention that several years ago at Wesley Chapel (06-07) teaching through construction was a challenge.

-This may be a concern when remodeling of schools takes place

In addition, trailers were used to hold 3rd-5th grade students.

-Would this be the case? Is adding trailers in the plan?

A teacher asked that if there were to be an increase in student numbers would this mean additional teachers would be added?

-Teachers are concerned about higher classroom ratios

-Ms. Chinnis responded with the current ratio numbers for each grade level

-5th grade no longer has a cap

-Teachers want to be sure that when possible classroom numbers remain low

Current Prospect number is 460

-At 550 trailers were needed in the past

-concerns that currently Prospect is at capacity using all available classrooms

If Prospect were to be expanded:

-a new wing would need to be added on, expanding the cafeteria and the media center

-recreational fields would also need to be relocated

A parent mentioned that Newtown has 1000 students but that the school is designed for higher numbers

A parent asked the question when renovations will be taking place will they be considering increasing numbers?

-Chinnis responded that future renovations will take in to account increasing school size

Committee agreed that 700-800 students could be in 1 elementary school

-Making note that the design of the building would play a significant role

A teacher mentioned a concern as to where Union County plans to expand schools

Middle School Size Numbers:

-Currently Parkwood Middle is crowded due to small hallway size (makes transitional time difficult) also the gymnasium can't be used school wide

Ms. Chinnis mentioned research about school size impacting students

-research can be found to indicate that smaller school size numbers allow students to form stronger relationships with their teachers

-research can also be found to indicate that larger school size numbers are not significant that rather it is the type of teacher that has the biggest impact

Teacher mentioned that flow of the building is important at a middle school level

A parent concern was mentioned in regards to if there is an emergency how can students be brought out of the school efficiently and quickly?

-This is also a concern with trailers

Teacher stated that when deciding numbers for middle school and high school students it is important to remember that although they are more independent they are larger and require more space.

A concern about car rider line for all grade levels was mentioned

Committee agreed 1200-1300 students could be in one middle school

Committee agreed 1600 students could be in one high school

A parent addressed that using these numbers to build new schools may be realistic but not for the current schools. Those schools that have a "newer" construction have the capacity and committee agrees higher numbers are okay at those schools.

Additional comments on school size:

-How will the needs of schools be addressed that will not be increasing their school size?

--Chinnis shared Prospect Elementary's construction list

-Committee is concerned about the septic issue at Prospect Elementary and adding new floors over the summer before fixing the system

-Committee members are concerned that schools with smaller numbers will not have their needs met

-Concerned with class sizes

In summary:

Committee agreed on the following numbers:

-Elementary- 700-800 students

-Middle- 1200-1300 students

High- 1600 students

Open Forum:

- 1) Third grade is concerned with dress code being enforced
-specifically in regards to hair dye

Handbook reads:

“The prospect administration team may use discretion in determining whether or not dress, style, or accessories are inappropriate or distracting to the educational environment”.

Committee discussed what “distraction” could be defined as:

-a distraction could be determined by a student focusing on that student and not the teacher

Chinnis mentioned: Spikey hair

-need to be able to determine if it is a distraction or a freedom of expression

It is important that students are not targeted in any way

A committee member said stated that it could be identified as “out of the ordinary”

A discussion was had as to whether or not the word “distraction” should be removed from the handbook statement.

-the definition is not the same for all staff members

A suggestion was made that an observation could be done on a student if a “distraction” is identified

At this time:

-committee has decided to consider revising the statement at the end of the year
-statement will remain the same until then

- 2) A parent concern was mentioned in regards to the door in the specials hallway not locking correctly and this is a safety hazard

- 3) 1st grade- concerned about all assemblies being held on a Thursday

-Ms. Chinnis explained this is done because of the availability of the gym and open time slots

- 4) Curriculum night:

-each class is to have an activity or hands on game

- grade levels may be in 1 room but must have several activities
- AIG, EC, Specials will be walking around to assist during carnival

No other business at this time

Next Meeting-November 17th, 2014- Prospect Elementary School Media Center 2:30

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by: Krista Williamson