

# STRATEGIC PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

## Minutes for

January 29, 2019

All members were present in person or via Zoom conference, except Sue and Clark who were absent with notice.

1. Lisa Plimpton contract. Research update.

Lisa finished her second batch of interview transcripts, we have gotten 7 total interviews. In addition to the raw transcripts, Lisa is drafting a summary of them for us, which should be ready Friday, February 1, along with her review of the Maine STEM landscape.

We will schedule Lisa to join us via Zoom conference on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to answer any questions regarding her report and observations.

2. Building report – distributed last night.

- a. Academic building - \$2 million capital investment over next 10 years to bring it back up to useful standard. The large investments are needed are roof, paving, and hvac systems. This does not include any remodeling needed to support programmatic changes, nor any other upgrades or improvements.
- b. Dorm building is in good shape. Action items like windows and siding were already part of the capital plan. Again, the report doesn't address any remodeling we would need for better residential life instructor living spaces, reconfigured dorm rooms, etc.

3. Headcount for food at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop

I am planning on food for 10.

4. February 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop

- a. Review Strategic Plan Charge – this is what we said we were doing
  - i. Benchmarks for STEM education
  - ii. Define MSSM mission
  - iii. Effectiveness of current operations
  - iv. Recommendations to move toward benchmarks
- b. How do we want to work?
  - i. Group consensus that we need to focus in on 3 key areas to develop recommendations for the Board on.
  - ii. It is time for action steps!
  - iii. David Pearson will draft his top 3 things as a starting point for discussions.
  - iv. Conference call on February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 8 a.m. to discuss those 3 things. Looking for group consensus on what we are going to focus Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting on.
  - v. Possible top 3 things are: location, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, school size; facilities, enrollment, programing; size, program, location/facilities; vision, mission, strategy; others?

5. Other topics discussed:

- a. How do we incorporate Faculty feedback into the process? Faculty feedback regarding the Day School question shows they value being part of the decision making process. Program team is focusing on MSSM Mission – how do we capture that work as part of the plan?
- b. Unresolved issues – size/enrollment/9<sup>th</sup> grade; program; location/facilities; outreach; funding; others?
- c. Our sister school in Illinois has raised the funds for a new 150 student dorm, they are going to fill it with international students and start enrolling 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- d. How do we differentiate ourselves? Community; boarding program; public school – offers boarding program to wider demographic. Can we get state support to lower the cost barrier for more students?
- e. Program – trends are toward problem solving, experiences. Art, music, humanities are all important along with the math and science. How do we highlight what is happening at MSSM in the classrooms?
- f. Competition – how do we compare to other Maine schools? What are the test scores at Baxter Academy or Bangor HS?