BOARD OF EDUCATION
Work Session

Minutes for August 28, 2019

The Board of Education met in work session at 5:45 p.m. on August 28, 2019 at Café LeReve on the Maryville High School campus. Board members present were Nick Black, Chad Hampton, Julie Elder, Candy Morgan, and Bethany Pope. Chairman Pope started the work session at the appointed time.

REZONING

Mrs. Pope first asked for public comment on the topic of rezoning. (Board members and administrators were available to the public just prior to the meeting to take any questions). Mr. Dustin Park, a parent with children at Sam Houston Elementary and Coulter Grove Intermediate, offered his support for the zone realignment under consideration. There were no other comments from the public.

SCHOOL GROWTH PLANNING STUDY

Dr. Winstead introduced Jim Hinton from Cope Architecture, who provided each member of the board and most tables of attendees with handouts detailing eight potential options that were the result of the firms' facilities planning study. Hinton's recommendations would accommodate growth projections by affecting capacity as follows:

- Option 1 would increase class sizes and require teachers to "travel" at MJHS.
    - Traveling teachers are those who are not assigned a permanent classroom, but instead float to and from available rooms.
- Option 2 would add classrooms at SHE, MRIS, and MJHS at a cost of $9 million.
- Option 3 included an addition at SHE, the construction of a new middle school, a shift in grade levels, and the transition of MJHS to a 9th grade academy. Cost for this plan is $39 million.
- Option 4 would again require the addition of classrooms at SHE, a newly constructed Intermediate school, and traveling teachers at MJHS. This cost estimate was $28 million.
- Option 5 is essentially the same as Option 4, with the addition of grade reconfiguration to make all Intermediate Schools 4th – 8th grade schools. The cost remains the same at $28 million.

- Option 6 would require the additional classrooms at SHE, plus construction of a new Jr. High School. The new grade configuration would be 7-9 at the Jr. High level and 4-6 at the Intermediate level. Cost for this construction would be $31 million.
- Option 7 would provide for construction of a new elementary school, with grades reconfigured to K-4 in elementary, 5-7 in intermediate, and traveling teachers at the Jr. High. Cost for this plan would be $18 million.
- Option 8 would include construction of a new elementary school and conversion of Sam Houston to a 7th grade building. 4th – 6th graders would attend the Intermediate Schools. Jr. High would again need to have traveling teachers. The cost for this plan is $22 million.

Comments and questions from the board and administrators followed. Many were clarifying questions or speculation about other possibilities.

Nick Black opened a discussion about including more options at the high school. Dr. Winstead explained that high school programming requires larger and more expensive facilities overall and making changes at the lower grades is often more cost effective. Mrs. Pope noted that she would not be in favor of larger class sizes. Mr. Black added that the community sentiment for Sam Houston as an elementary school was high and transitioning that facility to accommodate older students might be problematic. Dr. Winstead added that option 8 (with a major grade change at Sam Houston) would also influence any short-term plans for renovation at that facility.

Facilities coordinator Scott Blevins added that Maryville teachers have a successful track record of making major shifts in grade configurations, so these early plans with major shifts should not be a concern.

Dr. Winstead recommended a process for seeking input from stakeholders, starting with teachers. He highlighted the many areas of programming that would need further consideration – everything from transportation to food service. He also noted that with the prevalence of digital instructional materials in our classrooms, the concept of a traveling teacher is far less intrusive than it was in a traditional classroom environment.

Mr. Hampton posed a question about average operating costs for the various facilities and how that cost might be affected by any of the options under consideration. Dr. Winstead will work with Mr. Blevins to collect that data.

Mr. Hinton was asked to add an option that would include new classroom space at Maryville High School and to update the statistical data on the handouts to include total capacity. Dr. Winstead noted that it would be helpful to know how each options affects total capacity and utilization levels at each facility. His recommendation was to mitigate the possibility of having some facilities nearing maximum capacity, with others that are only 60-70% full.

Next steps include some additions and changes to the eight plans proposed, after which district administration will begin the process of collecting feedback that will help narrow down the options.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Anglim.