

Planning for the Future...

a study commissioned by the
Lancaster Central School District,
commencing on
November 27, 2017



Where do we go from here?

an outline and overview of the next steps

In the fall of 2017, the Lancaster Central School District commissioned The SES Study Team, LLC to prepare a study to address the following planning question:

*“Are there options that might provide more cost effective ways or patterns to organize how the PreK-12 program is implemented/delivered over the next three years?”**

**A report of the initial work session as well as other work products from the study can be found on the board of education’s web page at www.lancasterschools.org/ses_study.*

What are the next steps?

- Facilitators from the SES Study Team have reported to the board of education that they are nearing completion of their work. **They will present their *Program Implementation Study findings* on Tuesday, May 29 at a public meeting beginning at 6:30pm at Lancaster High School.**
- Over the next several months, the board of education will be reviewing possible options to organize how the district delivers programs to students. Areas of focus will include: a pattern of increasing elementary enrollment; New York State Aid to public schools and diligent decisions about property taxes and fiscal responsibility; learning expectations for all students; potential capital projects to maintain and sustain the community’s investment assets—the school buildings.
- Creation of a **Community Focus Group** to provide representation for all residents, taxpayers, and stakeholders of the school district. The agenda for the work of the focus group is carefully structured and formatted to ensure that time is spent by the participants talking and listening to others. The focus group will be held on **Saturday, June 16 from 8:30am to 2:30pm at William Street School.** *A representative sample of all stakeholders will be chosen to participate through an application process.*

How can I get involved?

- First, we encourage all interested residents to review the existing study material and background references that are provided on our website at www.lancaster-schools.org/ses_study.
- Next, we invite all residents to attend the public meeting which will unveil **Program Implementation Study** findings on **Tuesday, May 29, at Lancaster High School, beginning at 6:30pm.**
- Finally, if you have the time and interest in doing so, we urge you to apply to participate in the **Community Focus Group**, which will be held **Saturday, June 16 from 8:30am to 2:30pm at William Street School.**
 - ◇ **Applications will be screened for the sole purpose of providing a viable-sized team with an adequate cross section of the following stakeholder groups: pre-school parents; K-3 parents (from all attendance zones); William Street School parents; Lancaster Middle School parents; Lancaster High School parents; empty nesters; retirees; faculty members from all grade levels; elementary, secondary, and central office administration and support staff; older student(s); business representatives; municipal elected leader(s) and public sector employee(s); clergy; unmarried citizens under the age of 30; and possible other subgroups to be determined.**
 - ◇ When available, the application will be widely posted and disseminated using the district's normal channels of communication including an announcement in the board of education's official newspaper, *The Lancaster Bee*, via our social media accounts, and on the schools' and district pages of our website, including the study's dedicated page, www.lancasterschools.org/ses_study.
 - ◇ Focus group participants will be notified approximately by June 8 and will be forwarded focus group materials shortly thereafter.

How can I stay informed?

- We encourage you to attend the May 29 community meeting.
- Our archive and record of all meetings, forums, reports, notes, findings, and updates will be posted on our website at www.lancasterschools.org/ses_study.
- As new information is released, we will notify you via our website, Facebook, and Twitter to go to this archive where you will find the additional materials.
- One of our primary means of communicating with parents will be through the PTOs and, by extension, the administration's monthly meetings with the District PTO Council. We consider the leadership of these groups to be invaluable channels of communication among the school district, the schools, and parents. Please attend your building's PTO, HSA, or Principal Forum meetings to stay abreast of this and all other matters pertaining to your child's education.
- Toward the end of June, the SES Study Team will be publishing a report of the work of the Community Focus Group. This document, as well as all others, will be used to inform the board of education as they continue to move forward with planning.
- It is our goal to keep the community engaged and well informed throughout this process.