



YAKIMA SCHOOL DISTRICT #7
Facilities Assessment Community Team - FACT Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 25, 2024
Yakima, Washington

Members present

Adrienne Garner, Steve Brownlow, Lucy Calderon, Candelaria Mendoza, Daniel Garcia, Joy Haughton, Samantha Howell, Leslie Cornejo, Frances Logan, Maria Lucero, Marisol Guizar, Leslie Morris, Stacy Pietsch, Marilee Ramos, Julio Sanchez, Amanda Voorhees, Annie Blake, Hector Mendez, Robyn Harris

Non Voting Members present

Dr. Greene, Kirsten Fitterer, Barb Fiscus, Jake Kuper

WELCOME

Dr. Trevor Greene welcomed everyone to the first FACT meeting.

WHO IS FACT & Objectives

Dr. Greene reviewed what the overall objective of the committee is and went through a Powerpoint that will be emailed out for future reference. There was an overall discussion.

CFAC SUMMARY

Dr. Greene outlined previous work that the CFAC committee had done and reviewed the four schools that were proposed by CFAC: Hoover, Garfield, McKinley and Nob Hill.

Questions Raised:

- **Selection Process:** In response to questions about the state match and how schools were chosen, Mr. Kuper explained the assessment scoring process, which considers square footage, student numbers, poverty factors, and the date a building was constructed or updated, amongst other items.
- **Ranking Discrepancies:** Concerns were raised about why Nob Hill and McKinley, despite having the same square footage, are ranked the same. Mr. Kuper clarified that the scoring formula is more complex and is determined by OSPI. Principal Steve Brownlow, a member of CFAC, noted that the committee's decisions were based on visits to all buildings, including those in the Selah School District, and considered various factors beyond just square footage.
- **Safety Considerations:** Leslie Cornejo inquired whether safety and security were factored into the rankings.
- **Finality of Recommendations:** Joy Haughton asked if CFAC's recommendations were final or if our district's current financial conditions would be considered before a decision is made. Supt Greene confirmed that the recommendations have only been presented to him, not the Board,

therefore are not final. However, he did note that other items (ADA and Title IX) are more complex as they follow legal requirements.

- **Athletic Facilities:** Adriene Gardner noted that the DHS baseball field is in poor condition.

CHANGES SINCE CFAC

Mr. Kuper clarified that bonds are for buildings and levies are for learning, emphasizing that school funding needs a two-prong approach. He noted a nationwide change in birth rates, resulting in graduating classes that are 200-300 students larger than incoming kindergarten classes.

Questions Raised:

- **FTE Cost:** The cost for an FTE is approximately \$15k - \$16k, with \$10k covered at the state level.
- **Impact of Homeschooling:** Post-COVID, many FTEs remained at home. Supt Greene referenced a Stanford article on declining enrollment. There is no financial allocation for homeschooled students, but their "minutes in the seat" are counted, allowing the district to receive a percentage of the FTE funding for any time they attend classes. Mr. Kuper explained that families are required to file an intent to homeschool their student with the state to ensure proper accounting of the student's enrollment.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Homeschool students can participate in sports, but the district does not receive FTE funding for them, as the state provides zero funding for extracurricular activities.
- **Enrollment Decline:** Questions were raised about the percentage of enrollment decline across elementary, middle, and high schools.
- **Parent Outreach:** There were inquiries about whether the district has contacted parents of homeschooled students to understand their reasons for not returning. Principal Julio Sanchez explained that the family liaison at the building level reaches out and often visits homes to encourage and emphasize good attendance habits. The district level does this via the Migrant and McKinney Vento departments but often only learns of student departures when transcript requests are received.
- **Funding for Online vs. In-Class FTE:** Mr. Kuper stated that funding for online and in-class FTEs is roughly the same.
- **School Closure Impact:** A question regarding the implications of closing a school and what would happen to the physical building was posed after the meeting.
- **Migrant Seasonal Workers:** Funding was utilized to engage migrant families over the summer, with Hector Mendez and ESD collaborating to reach out to homes for enrollment assistance.

Adrienne Garner highlighted the housing crisis in Yakima County, noting that families are doubling up for cost savings and moving to neighboring areas due to lack of housing in the YSD boundary. She commented on a possible one-year boom in

kindergarten enrollment in three years from now due to increased birth rates during COVID.

REVIEW FACT CHARTER

Dr. Greene reviewed the FACT Charter which was printed and provided for everyone to review.

FACT COMMITTEE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Dr. Greene emphasized the importance of the committee's decisions, which significantly impacts the district as a whole, and highlighted the need for commitment from all members.

Questions Raised:

- **Quorum Requirements:** The attendees decided that a quorum is necessary for voting; members must be present to vote, and no proxies are allowed. "Quorum" was defined by the group as 50%+ of the final membership.
- **Inviting Additional Members:** Questions were raised about inviting business owners and parent groups to increase representation. Perspectives from the City Manager and Commissioners were also suggested.

Votes:

1. Annie Blake motioned to define "quorum" as 50%+ of the final membership for voting. Steve Brownlow seconded the motion, and it was carried.
2. Steve Brownlow motioned that a supermajority will be required for any action taken after a vote is on the table. Adrienne Garner seconded the motion, and it was carried.

NEXT STEPS

- Reach out to members who did not attend and invite them to join.
- Edit the committee members list to reflect only attending members moving forward.
- Include more student representation.
- Jake will provide elementary enrollment numbers for the past five years at the next meeting to analyze trends.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Next FACT Meeting: 10/23/2024, 6:00-8:00 p.m. -In-Person at Davis Commons