



# **SOUTH EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**PROVIDING PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION TO STRENGTHEN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY**

**Grade Re-alignment/Consolidation  
February 19, 2019  
6:30 pm  
SEMS Library  
Minutes**

**I. Welcome/Distribution of January 15, 2019 Minutes**

In attendance: Tracy Grube, Joe Devilbiss, Sandra Ness, Melissa Daisey, Nicole Golden, Nadine Sanders, Mary Childress, Rebecca Swanson, Pam Hobbs, Elizabeth Miller, Scott Shaffer, Zane Fake, Todd Mulder, Travis Moore, Judy Burinsky, Stacey Alexander, Kim Nalls, Doug Bryant, Jennifer Herman, Preston Jacka, Joy Kolodzi, and Jeffrey Hughes (Jon Horton arrived at 7:25 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

**II. Sub-Committees (Report Out)**

Each subcommittee was reviewed (enrollment, transportation, facilities, staffing, and program and policy). Each subcommittee reported on discussion/questions from their last meeting(s).

- **Transportation** (report provided 1.15.19)
  - Mrs. Waltmyer's report from the 1/15/19 was reviewed with the committee.
  
- **Enrollment** (handout, 10 year summary provided 1.15.19)
  - The 10 year trend of enrollment was reviewed. Mention was made later (in sub group discussion) that there could be a trend of seeing neighborhood beginning to see a change as younger families begin to move into existing homes.
  - We plan to reach out to Hopewell Township regarding any housing developments.
  
- **Facilities**

Mr. McCleary prepared 7 points to share with the committee. These points are listed below;

  - Five year energy upgrades to SEIS would cost approximately \$2 million dollars

- SEIS complete renovation to be \$6 million dollars (complete renovation similar to Elementary Schools)
- The operational cost for the building (SEIS) averaged \$253,947 for the past two school years (some operational costs will remain for the gym / locker rooms at SEIS)
- If a building is not going to be used (SEIS), future usage is undetermined. There was a look at what it would cost (approximately) to bring a building back from mothball back to operation. Mr. McCleary estimates that could cost approximately \$60,000 but that cost would depend on the overall condition of the building.
- The cost of an addition to SEMS would be roughly the same as the cost for energy upgrades to SEIS (1.5-2.0 million dollars)
- There would be a significant savings if a complete renovation was not done. Savings of the operational costs would pay for the addition in about 10 years.
- Whatever is best for students in regards to curriculum and number of transitions should drive the decision.

The committee provided additional questions for the facilities sub group. These questions are listed below:

1. Can 5<sup>th</sup> grade fit in the exiting elementary schools?
2. Is there a cost to mothball the building (SEIS)? Also, what is the cost or items needed to keep the gym and locker rooms open (controls/ systems)? Will there need to be renovations to the gym and locker room areas?
3. Energy upgrades to SEIS would cost \$2 million dollars. A complete renovation would cost (Per EI) \$ 6 million dollars. Are the energy upgrades sufficient or does the building need a complete renovation?
4. With any future use of SEIS, would the building need a renovation for that to happen?
5. If we close SEIS, would upgrades need to happen before a closure?
6. Can we visit a school district that has closed a building to see the results? Mr. Hughes / Mr. McCleary will work to set up a visit.

- **Staffing**

If we moved the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the elementary and 6<sup>th</sup> to the middle school, we would need 10 classroom teachers for grade 5 and 8 for grade six. Currently, we have 16 total classroom teachers for these positions. There are an additional 15 certificated staff members in SEIS. Where would they go and how would staff be allocated to support the program?

This would be a piece that would be addressed by the District once a decision was made with respect to this process

Additional questions raised included:

- ES and LS classes. What do programs look like and how are they supported?

- What does the Gifted program look like at these levels?
- Will there be furloughs of staff?
- Will 6<sup>th</sup> grade become a junior high instead of an elementary type of setting?
- If you shift staff, will class sizes remain the same?
  
- In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students work with teams of two teachers? This is done as a transition for moving to grade 7/8, etc. What will the program look like at an elementary school?
  
- **Programs/Research**  
 Our focus is the following:
  - Well rounded education for all students
  - Flexible spacing for instruction
  - Ensure that school / extra-curricular opportunities are offered for all students
  - We want to visit schools to see how these items are addressed
  - We are going to review our 4 pages of notices and wonders
  - We need to base whatever we do on the four main components of our Comprehensive Plan

Link to Google document for Programs/Research:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rU4lwrRYEQrTRCH5dMjDEooIjJeltrWvu89iygBGgRs/edit?usp=sharing>

### **III. Continued Group Discussion**

Sub committees met to continue with their discussion

### **IV. Next Steps**

### **V. Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2019, 6:00 PM in the SEMS Library