

## Operations & Transportation Restructuring Sub Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2022

Attendees:

Barbara Francisco, Alex Anemone, Chris Kelly, Karen Wilm, Cortney Stephenson, Karen Romer, Amy Kistler, Tracey Lombardi, Tracey Del Colliano, Wayne Gottlieb

A District Restructuring Committee has been formed to review and discuss the district's declining enrollment and loss of state funding. Over the last 5 years the district has lost \$7.8 million in state aid. There are two budgets left for S2 to be fully implemented. We are anticipating an additional \$1.5 million reduction when developing the 23-24 budget later this year.

At this meeting the subcommittee discussed the following:

After the Board received Dr. Haber's demographic survey in August, they authorized Dr. Haber to prepare a redistricting report. We expect a draft for the October board meeting. While we were waiting for that information, the Transportation Department began a preliminary review of where current students are located and where redistricting lines could be placed to facilitate the efficient transportation of students. Ms. Wilm and her staff are familiar with the roads, areas that create difficulty with turnarounds, and their experience as drivers is a great resource. Keeping neighborhoods together is also a priority. We shared our view of redistricting with the committee members.

The committee also discussed the public comments made by a former board member, "to combine Maple Road students with Westbrook students and sell the Maple Road School". Combining the student population of the two buildings (currently 472 students) without any redistricting will not achieve any savings, class sizes will be larger, and Westbrook cannot hold that many students. Maple Road school has most of our special needs students which require therapy rooms along with classroom space. Also brought up were the two classrooms at Westbrook that are now the main office and principal's office and are no longer available for students. A number of the current classrooms include small group instruction areas. The committee also discussed the pros and cons of selling Maple Road School. If the student population does increase, as some residents believe, repurposing Westbrook would keep the building open and able to accommodate students in the future if needed.

Also brought up was the number of student's attending Highlander Academy and why the High School can't be considered instead of repurposing Westbrook School.

A member of the committee asked about a rumor – the administration was going to cut sports to save money. This has not been recommended by any Board members or administrator. The importance of the district's ability to maintain academic and extracurricular opportunities for High School students was discussed.

