

PT Council Meeting

January 9, 2020

See agenda distributed in meeting

Other handouts included:

- Yankee game fundraiser
- Board of Reps Contact Info
- Benefits of Block Scheduling in HS
- New Graduation Requirements
- Proposed Budget 2020-21

Long-Term Facilities Plan

slide presentation available for questions (not shown)

Mike Handler and Dr. Tamu Lucero

Main Points:

- This is an aggressive plan but the most cost-effective model, challenges the traditional model
- In contrast, 6 years x school, 1 school at a time lead to taxes that are increased significantly
- little to no risk in the 5 schools at once
- MH: "if you don't aim for something big, nothing will get done"
- MH: "the risk is to identify the problem of the schools and not do anything"

questions from parents :

legal aspect of long-term leases? will be picking the right partner and adding everything needed into contract (45 year lease, Triple A), and the financing (half billion dollars) will make it a complicated deal.

the urgency? we can wait, but it will cost us more. gave examples of Toquam and Westhill- short-term necessary fixes are expenses. this is the inflection point. long term v short-term

What about other schools not mentioned in this plan? 3 tiers of schools based on conditions of the schools. Tier 1- strawberry hill, rogers, Tier 2, and Tier 3 which are those that are being part of the LT facilities plan. All are on the radar, and needs being monitored and inventoried. 20 year plan. Parent made the point that the schools not on the list want to know that they are on the radar.

concern about current "little things" problems in schools

you can contact the associate super / assoc principal (?) to ask who the facilities manager is for the particular school

tentative timeline? showed slides detailing tentative project schedule for RFPs, negotiations w contractors from January to May/ June.

missed question re: opposition

retrofitting Elmcroft, would it make sense to create a swing school?

how will we make sure that there won't be time in swing school that is wasted/ nothing moving forward? construction can work if it's motivated properly.

How do you show support for this program/ voice your concerns? Until your Reps know how you feel, your reps will make their decision without you. Tamu distributed list of reps. Should contact them this week before the mtg on 1/14/20. Suggested talking points distributed to by PT Council, script of what to say or what to write. What about writing an op-ed for the advocate? Could be powerful if not by Mike or Tamu.

How did you arrive at these decisions? Data driven as to why schools are slotted for specific location. There will be redistricting involved.

Tamu:

The budget is ready. we will walk through the budget at the next meeting (Feb 4th, tentatively).

there are 4 areas that causing budget to increase substantially, 6.59%:

Transportation- 1.7% (adding buses),

facilities \$3.5 million for repair and preventive maintenance plan (e.g. playgrounds) and having the \$ ready.
Special education up close to \$7 mil
\$5 million health care (this is part of the state plan)
cutting budget in other areas (media center paras, these paras will fill other open para roles); BOE staffing executive report available now and was distributed.
“passionate about the budget”

Michael Hernandez (?)- bus tracking, ready to pilot now and implement next year.

Beldotti- High School block schedule
benefits - 1) opportunity for more credit hours (which responds to the need credit hours for graduation) 2) less time in transition between classes/ less wasted time; 3) ability to go into greater depth, see handout for additional benefits.

concerns of teachers: 1) how will my teaching need to change? addressing the concerns. will be looking at other schools that are on blocks (Fairfield, AITE, Darien) etc. on inservice days; 2) will have 10 min less of hands-on time.

HFC- will be a refresher so all principals are on board

SPEF nominations due early Feb
can repeat nominations from year to year, each school will nominate
winner attends SPF gala March 26 and gets 1k per classroom

Committee for Tobin Scholarship for graduating seniors applying to college- need parent volunteers to serve on committee