Dublin Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2024

Attendees Committee: Blake Anderson, Andy Freeman, Bill Gurney, Andy Hungerford, Peter Imhoff, Jesse Marcum, Blake Minckler, Carole Monroe, Jay Schechter

Other Attendees: Cameron Cashman (MLT), Nancy Cayford, Judy Knapp, Balmeet Laskey, Mary Loftis, Rick McMillan, Susan Peters, Julie Risso, K Vanderbilt, John Wood

1. Minutes Approval – March 19, 2024 B Gurney moved as written, B Minckler second, all in favor.
2. Minutes Approval – March 26, 2024 B Gurney moved as written, B Minckler second, all in favor.
3. J Schechter spoke with Leo Plante to discuss Charter schools and the beginnings of Lionheart Academy.
4. 4/3 Meeting with other towns has been postponed until 4/24.
5. J Schechter has discussed the possibility of a meeting with A Edelkind.
6. Community Impact Group
   1. A Freeman is researching data regarding the link between socio economic values and a local community school.
   2. Further research to explore the Mason withdrawal from their district and local DCA contacts continues.
   3. A Hungerford has walked through the physical DCA building with J Schechter and Nicole Pease to examine the facility. There are 8 classrooms and limited office space. There are 4 classrooms in regular use and staff and an arts room. The building is adaptable and could be adapted to add Prek or grades 5 and 6. The budget is approximately $1.2 M for all operations, including education. There are few capital projects needed with $200+K for upkeep and Maintenance. He is looking for more defined numbers. How is the school building valued? This information should come out of the Feasibility Report.
   4. A Freeman referenced a 2018 comprehensive community impact statement (Impact of School Closing, April 2018) in which the majority of impact examples indicate negative consequences. Report will be posted. B Minckler indicated 4 different options were outlined in the study documents.
   5. J Marcum reminded that one Board does not have to be beholden of the prior Board.
   6. B Anderson referenced a Robert Putnam article that supports this community knowledge. He will locate the article and post.
   7. A Freeman suggested a look at the National Center for Education Statistics for a definition of a Rural Education and trending education statistics.
7. Education Quality – Identifying areas for analysis
   1. J Marcum is continuing to look at State data, graphs and trends.
   2. B Gurney identified nearby districts for comparing drop-out rates, going on to a 4 year college, trade, military, graduation rates and incident reports, and special education needs focusing on 2021 to present.
   3. J Marcum summarized graphs that link lower test scores to lower economic trends.
   4. A discussion related to quality measures that can be found on the DOE site. Others can access this data on iExplorer on the DOE site.
8. John Wood clarified for the Committee that the warrant article starts the process of leaving the District, not the SAU. More study on this situation is needed; the Feasibility Study Committee should be able to clarify this.
9. The Feasibility Study process was explained.
10. Legal/Financial/Risk Management
    1. Reviewed information regarding the differences of a 50/50 apportionment ratio and a 75/25 ratio. Using 2023 numbers, Dublin‘s share would be 9.24% with the 50/50 ratio and 7.9% at a 75/25 ratio; the difference between $3.6M and $3.1M.
    2. Our assessed property values are the primary factors to our rate.
    3. Discussed the implications of TIF Districts on total assessed property values. There is an indication that a TIF District would hold the assessed values on properties in the District flat for 10 years, in essence lowering the equalized value for that town and the costs of the School District would be spread across the other towns.
    4. Also discussed, District cost control issues and declining enrollment, the issues with education during the COVID years, and the availability of Broadband.
11. Select Board Requests
    1. Committee Timeline
    2. Increased community involvement
    3. Legal representation
    4. Ongoing progress reports
12. Next meetings: 4/16 5:30 Town Hall; April 24 6:00 PM Meeting with other Towns, Town Hall; April 30 6:00 open town meeting with Frank Edelblut.