Dublin Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2024

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

Other Attendees: Cameron Cashman (MLT), Judy Knapp, Rick McMillan, Susan Peters, Neal Sandford

1. Minutes Approval – April 2, 2024 A Hungerford moved as amended, J Marcum second, all in favor.
2. B Gurney, J Schechter, C Monroe met with The Well School.
   a. The success of the student population is a result of direct parental involvement.
   b. Currently there are 130 students and can accommodate 140. Only 3-5 come from Dublin.
   c. Class size is 12-15 students.
   d. Special needs are handled on a cases-by-case basis. The school cannot provide 1-on-1 special needs resources.
   e. The school follows best practices and will be using ERB testing to measure academic growth over a year, benchmarking year-to-year growth.
   f. Teachers are not required to be certified, however most hold a Master's Degree and could easily be certified.
   g. See attached for the Tuition Schedule.
   h. Upon graduation 75% go on to independent high schools and 25% go to local public high schools.
   i. 97% of revenue comes from tuition.
   j. The school has an Associate level of Accreditation at the national level.
3. Across our District one of the reasons for Francestown higher test scores is the level of family engagement. We also discussed that ConVal also offers advanced Math at the middle school level that allows students to move to more advanced Math in high school.
4. The meeting on April 24 at 6 PM will be a meeting that includes participation from Francestown, Bennington, and Temple. Agenda is attached.
5. Questions are being gathered for the April 30 meeting with Commissioner Edelblut. The questions are being grouped by topic. B Gurney will review the list of questions.
6. Temple is looking at the possibility of a Special Town Meeting to request a Feasibility Study, like Dublin and Francestown.
7. Those expressing interest in a visit to Lionheart are A Hungerford, B Gurney, and J Schechter.
8. A meeting with Brad Bates, Dublin School will be on 4/18 at 4.
9. Community Impact Group
   a. Focus is on Social Value, Education Quality (vs an alternative) and Economic Impact.
   b. Economic Impact includes: Housing values, tax base, the Sullivan experience,

     c. A survey is needed to define all three and to clearly represent the Dublin public views.

     d. A suggestion was made to contact Andy Smith and the UNH Granite Research.

     e. Another suggestion was made to host a pancake breakfast to present and gain informative views from Dublin parents and residents.

10. Education Quality – Identifying areas for analysis
     a. Comparing quality benchmarks to national data.
     b. Graduation rates hover in the 90-95% in our area schools.
     c. Dropout rates for ConVal fall in the middle but can fluctuate widely.
     d. Also looking at violence incidences. This also fluctuates greatly; it is a State metric with a formal DOE definition.
     e. Reviewing the chronic absentee rate – 10% missing 10% of their classes.
     f. A question was asked if there are absentee rates for teachers.

11. Legal/Financial/Risk Management
     a. Interviewing attorneys with public education expertise.
     b. Looking further into the SAU/District Bonding Status and future bonding.
     c. Continuing to look at the assessed value of the DCS infrastructure and local easements.
     d. We have received all information requested in our RTK request.
     e. What will be our pension liabilities?
     f. We need to identify Dublin special needs requirements and trends.
     g. A review of all financial details, costs/revenues is continuing.

12. C Monroe will review the property tax formulas to gain a full understanding and the ability to project future tax implications. With J Marcum.

13. A motion to adjourn was made by B Gurney, A Hungerford second at 7:18 PM.

14. Next meetings: April 24 6:00 PM Meeting with other Towns, Town Hall; April 30 6:00 open town meeting with Frank Edelblut.