ALIGNMENT RESEARCH AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Joseph Arcarese, Albert Littlefield, Jaime Barr Shelburn, Timothy Hagen

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo, (Superintendent), Linda Anania (Flanders Elementary School Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (Niantic Center Elementary School Principal)

I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by BOE Chair Tim Hagen.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

III. DISCUSSION
   A. Alignment Research Ad hoc Committee Composition and Makeup:
      - Joe Arcarese volunteered to be the committee’s Chair. (Affirmed unanimously) Al Littlefield volunteered to record the minutes.
   B. Review of Ad Hoc Committee Charter:
      - A review of the Alignment Research Ad hoc Committee Charter was provided by Board of Ed Chair, Tim Hagen. This addressed the committee guidance, charge, and timeline.
   C. Identification of information and research needed to fulfill charter:
      - Dr. Lombardo reviewed some information collected for the committee:
        - Enrollment—Current and Projected
        - Classroom Capacity
        - Potential phased analysis of alignment/redistricting (as provided by the Vision Committee)
          - Three schools renovated as new
          - Two schools renovated as new
          - Construction of new elementary school complex
        - Current elementary schools floor plans
      - Linda Anania reviewed some information collected for the committee:
        - School boundaries
        - Redistricting Guidelines
        - Sample redistricting projects of other schools
      - Albert Littlefield reviewed some information collected for the committee:
        - Redistricting affects on education
        - Redistricting Process—Criteria
        - Class Size and Student Achievement: Research Review
        - Class Size Crunch—What is more vital to classroom success, a great teacher of lower class size?
        - How important is class size?
      - Additional Discussion:
        - Committee needs to document their thought process in considering elementary school alignment and redistricting.
        - What triggers the realignment/redistricting process?
        - Consider all of the Vision Committee options. Why realign/redistrict now?
• Is it “worth” realigning/redistricting before the Vision Committee (with the Educational Architect) has finished the complete evaluation of “what we want for our elementary schools.”
• The Vision Committee (and the Architect) will drive the necessary student movement to accommodate any realignment both during the Construction Phase and at the Completion Phase.
  - Redistricting (redrawing boundaries) may not help the District achieve the alignment (equalization of the number of students per school with the optimum class size—balancing classes).
  - What is “Optimum Class Size?”
  - Prepare a PowerPoint Presentation or Whitepaper documenting the steps: How do we need to make the decision to realign or redistrict?

D. Future Meeting Agenda Items:
  - Review/discuss relevant research materials
  - Develop PowerPoint documenting Alignment Process and all that must be considered
  - Alignment/redistricting impacts on students, families, staff, and District resources
  - Address moving Fifth Grade from Middle School back to the Elementary Schools

E. Next meeting date and time:
  - Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 4:00PM at Central Office

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully Submitted,
Albert Littlefield

Al Littlefield

MOTION CARRIED