Long Range Advisory Committee

MINUTES
Monday, September 16, 2024
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Se ofrece traducción de los materiales de la reunión a español por pedido. Por favor comunicarse con bvsd.operations@bvsd.org.

Committee Members in Attendance: Jeff Anderson, Josh Baldner, Laura Baukol, Gordo Byrn, Susan Courson, Brooke Daerr, Trish De Fries, Susan Grant, Gavan Goodrich, Tina Marquis, Dan Ryan, Yvette Salas, Mamta Saxman, Jessica Seevers, Cori Shaff, Della Smith, Caleb Starbuck, Jim Topping, Nick Vanderpol

Staff Members in Attendance: Rob Price, Lora De La Cruz, Robbyn Fernandez, Susan Cousins, Sierra Espinoza, Glen Segrue, Clare Sims

Board Members in Attendance: Kitty Sargent

I. Welcome
Chairperson Yvette Salas opened the meeting and welcomed the committee.

II. Public Comment
No members of the public were present.

III. Committee Governance

A. Introductions - Members of the committee introduced themselves and shared a little bit about themselves.

B. Upcoming Important Dates -Next meetings and update to the Board
   a. Next LRAC meetings - Nov. 18; Jan. 27, 2025, Mar. 10, 2025
   b. Next Update to the Board - Oct. 8

C. The April 15, 2024 minutes were approved.

D. Committee Communication

Assistant Superintendent Rob Price gave an overview of the committee's work thus far. Initially, the committee took a deep dive into understanding declining enrollment at the elementary level and how that affects the student experience. The group developed a set of metrics and recommendations that the Board has adopted to guide the district's work in this area. This year, the committee will look at the student experience at the middle level and school attendance area boundaries.

Members of the committee shared comments related to class size and attendance area boundaries, Colorado open enrollment laws, the Showcase and the need for good communication related to school choices.

Members requested links to all the past Board meetings related to declining enrollment.

IV. Information/Discussion

A. Assistant Superintendent Robbyn Fernandez gave a presentation on the Heatherwood Community Engagement Process. The Heatherwood Educational Advisory Team has met since April and has developed a proposal to implement an Environmental STEAM program at the school. The proposal will be presented to the Board at its Oct. 8 meeting. Committee members discussed the presentation and shared comments.

B. Assistant Superintendent Rob Price explained next steps regarding considering enrollment decline at middle and K-8 schools.

C. Rob Price gave a brief announcement about the BVSD is the Place to be Showcase on Oct. 9.

D. The committee provided feedback on the Declining Enrollment Worksession slide deck which will be used to guide the Board's discussion of declining enrollment data on Sept. 18.

The discussion of the slide deck prompted additional comments from the committee, including:

- What is the attendance goal for Heatherwood? Are there enough students in the neighborhood? Committee members like the initiative because the program seems to be what families want.
- The type of housing being constructed in Boulder and other areas does matter related to attracting families with school age children.
- What does waitlist trend data tell us and does the process for Open Enrollment play a role? Waitlist numbers have declined except for charter schools.
- Other districts are giving enrollment preference to grandkids/grandparents who are helping families.
- Nationwide data show families are choosing homeschooling at a high rate.
- How much time does Heatherwood have to see if the new program attracts families. Like all schools, Heatherwood's enrollment will be reviewed annually.
- Committee members emphasized the importance of making sure we are offering programs our community really wants.

- How do we address K-8's because they are different from just an elementary and a middle school?

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

LRAC Membership **LRAC Website**