

Bogan Community Meeting 3/7/23

NOTES:

Welcome from Mr. Bothast: Introductions: Mrs. Tafelski, Mrs. Hansel, Mr. Derickson, Mr. Hubbard, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Merz, Mr. Malone, Dr. Howard from TSD.

Dr. Howard shared some information about the Kramer meeting, and shared that the copies of the slide presentation does include some minor additions to clarify or provide definitions as requested from the previous evening.

Dr. Howard shared that she's heard that this happened "so fast", and she shared some additional information regarding timing, how the plan was developed over a few months. The BOE received the plan in February at the BOE meeting. She shared the timeline, and how the BOE came to the decision to host community meetings.

What is a 1 tier bus service? Today we have a 2 tier system, a secondary morning/afternoon route, and an elementary morning/afternoon route. We have 1 fleet of buses. The 1 tier system proposed would be K-8, one set of routes, and a shuttle service based out of TMS. This includes a 2 mile "no transportation zone" equating to the state minimum requirements for bus service. Families K-8 would opt in to the service (by July) so that then the routes would be developed. Students served by Special Ed are required to be transported. Students will ride together. This offers an opportunity for a Latch Key program to serve the district wide. \$200K in savings.

What does grade-banding entail? \$400K in savings. Bogan: K-1, Marshall: 2-3, Kramer: Preschool, 4-5. Students would benefit from being with their cohort throughout their entire school experience. Students/staff benefit from PD and collaboration. Latch Key may be added (TSD understands that the Y is interested in doing so). This may ease and support differentiation because of the increase in staff per grade-level. In some ways it adds some flexibility in transportation at different times of their school experience. There is less duplication of service. The shared resources increase by grade level. Start and end times will be adjusted.

*Please understand that these savings will not keep the district solvent long term. At some point revenues will need to increase, and a levy will be needed.

This combination of the proposal will allow the district to potentially keep the following...

- Art, Music, PE in all three elementary schools
- Reduce Athletic & Marching Band fees to \$450/activity at THS & \$175 at TMS with no family cap
- Provide Extra Curricular Programs (i.e. Prom, Homecoming, and Mock Trial)
- Keep the Athletic Directors and AD Secretary in order to keep Athletics
- Keep the classified lunch/recess monitors

Concerns heard:

- Issues with a mix of ages on the bus
- Changes for families and staff
- Changes in PTG's
- Concerns about TMS as the hub
- Low income families and transportation
- Potential lack of long-term relationships with students and teachers
- Separation of siblings during the school day
- Academic and social/emotional impacts
- Moving of classrooms and or rebuilding classrooms

Next Steps:

- Busing & Busing Hub
- Moving staff
- Climate and culture
- Relationships
- PTG's...changes
- Monitoring, assessing, adjusting as needed
- Communication with all stakeholders

Dr. Howard shared information about open meeting laws/Ohio Sunshine Laws that School Board members are subject to by law in this state.

****Ohio's Sunshine Law (RC 121.22) requires that all acts and most deliberations of boards of education and other public bodies, as well as their committees and subcommittees, be conducted in public meetings.**

QUESTIONS from Community:

1. The first speaker has 3 children, living in Oxford, and no matter what the decision her children will be in 3 different schools. She thinks grade-banding will be a big change for most families. She is worried about cuts that will impact her incoming 9th grader. She could sacrifice and understand grade-banding in order to keep more programs in place at the high school. She's worried about losing potentially 9 teachers, fine arts, and other programs.
 - a. She wants to know if there are some alternatives to the 3 year cuts plan already approved? Also can "saving with attrition" be explained? *Answer: Money can be saved through attrition. As veteran teachers retire, then younger teachers can be hired that start at a lower salary rate. The savings predicted of \$400K will be compounded each year with the grade-banding. Without grade-banding there is still*

K-2 is 25 students, and the maximum for grades 3-5 is 30 students. There are times that the enrollment numbers do not work out within those parameters. Per the contract, the district will pay teachers \$10 per day/per additional student assigned to that teacher's class that is over the maximum number per the contract language. She also asked if parents could drop off at the bus hub to help ease family schedules? Dr. Howard shared this may be possible. She also asked if the Athletic Director is required by the state to have an athletics program? She is aware that this position is currently in the 3 year cost savings/reduction plan. She shared she doesn't think the position should be eliminated, but was interested in the state requirements. Dr. Howard shared this is not a state requirement. She also asked about fees, and how this is covered for low income families, and she is concerned about the potential high costs of this? Dr. Howard shared these items are under discussion to date. She shared that teachers have shared with her that they are frustrated by their lack of request from leaders to give input. She also shared that her own child would be excited to be in school with students her children know in other schools that were their same age. She also shared a positive experience that she had in a grade-banded school. Mr. Bothast shared that he understands the concerns around the cost of sports and extracurricular activities. He made the point that the financial crisis is real and at some point something has to give.

6. This speaker shared she has 3 kids and loves TSD. She is concerned about mental health and she is concerned about losing the school social workers. She shared that she is involved in a non-profit and maybe there are some opportunities. She shared that she grew up in poverty and she understands many families' situations. She is concerned about the perceived importance of athletics. She shared that her child saw pornography on the school bus, so multiple ages on the buses are concerning. She hopes that veterans are not pushed to resign or retire to save money. *Dr. Howard shared this is not the case.*
7. The next speaker has 3 children. She asked about the questions from each meeting, and how this can be shared. *Mrs. Hansel shared that the notes are being reviewed by the BOE, we know there will be duplicate questions in some cases, and after the review she anticipates that these notes will be posted on the school district blog.* She is concerned that the presentation did not have more data and comparisons to other communities. She liked to know more about current costs and savings needed. She hopes to learn more about comparisons about schools going from a 2 tier busing to 1 tier busing. She also heard that Marshall may not be large enough. She also wanted to know how preschool families were told about the community meetings. She heard about the \$900 for athletic fees and she would like that itemized. *Mrs. Tafelski will share the breakdown for THS and TMS athletics so it can be shared more widely.*
8. The next speaker has 3 children. She is concerned about the future lack of SRO's, no social workers, and nurses. She supported the levy, and she is interested in cost savings to save positions and programs. The positions that could be eliminated are definitely needed and valuable. She thinks it would be hard to pass up the cost savings with grade-banding given the financial issues. That said...eliminating busing for HS will hurt students, and especially families in poverty.

9. The next speaker is from a different country, he came to this country for higher education. He is very concerned that education is not prioritized better. He wants to know if geo-spatial intelligence is used to solve the issues and or develop new strategies to solve these problems. He is concerned about the amount of time this will take up in getting kids to school and his kids won't go to school together. He shared that he understands that everyone has their favorite things and that it will take everyone pitching in to possibly solve these financial issues.
10. The next speaker has 3 students and is a teacher. She is concerned that with the current plan if grade-banding is approved it doesn't necessarily save SRO's, social workers, etc. She asked how HS busing could be brought back if it is eliminated?
11. The next speaker is concerned about the bus routes already canceled this year due to lack of subs. She is concerned about what happens under the new plan. She is very concerned about safety and communication when a safety issue occurs.
12. The next speaker has 2 children. He is glad that everyone behaved this evening. Thank you. He is concerned that with cuts the AD position could be cut in the future. He helped on the interview committee. He is sad that Jay Volker is no longer coaching and or working in TSD. He is concerned about students driving after games and or competitions. He asked about being able to rent facilities. He also shared academics are so important but so are sports. He is concerned about students who are at risk and the programs that help them. He shared some safety concerns and some student on student assaults in other communities and he is definitely concerned about safety on our school buses...keeping bus routes safe and reasonable in length is very important.

Dr. Howard shared that she is still gathering information and looking for research. Final decisions have not been made yet. Mr. Bothast shared some personal experiences and shared how athletics helped his children that he adopted. He shared that he is a teacher and he knows the hardships of too many students in a classroom. The BOE appreciates hearing from community members.