

Marshall - Community Meeting 3/8/23

NOTES:

Welcome from Mr. Meade

The goal is to get input from the community about the cost savings plan including the grade-band proposal and a tier 1 transportation program.

Explains why there are only 2 board members present- See Ohio Sunshine Law:

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.

Introductions of administrators:

Mr. Otto reviews the slide presentation

Reviews the slide that describes the process

Reviews the 1 tier bus system slide

Reviews the slides around the grade level band proposal

Reviews the slide around the grade level band proposal challenges

Reviews next steps for the proposal

Overview:

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

1st speaker

Parent of 5th and 2nd graders at Marshall

Q: Latchkey - she applied and have not had staff in the past to have it.

Has anyone reached out to see if they can house it?

The staff at latchkey is very different that the babysitters I trust.

Q: 2 mile radius - will baby sitter address apply to the 2 mile radius?

Pat Meade - will check if the babysitters address is allowed to be used now, assume that it would continue next year.

Next speaker

4 kids in the district

2 HS and 2 MS

FFA and FCCLA will be eliminated by year 3, if grade banding goes through will they be reinstated or are they still slated to be cut? Is it right to assume that unless a levy passes these will be a cut?

Q: Is all latchkey to be held at TMS and is there a cap?

What happens to the kids if they are not able to get in?

Chad Hinton explains why latchkey has not happened at Marshall in the past as there were not enough students.

Q: If the levy passes in the future would we remain at grade level band schools or would we return to neighborhood schools?

Pat Meade shared that it would be difficult to return to the current model later if grade-banding were implemented.

Q: If grade banding eliminates half day kindergarten and tuition?

Do we know tuition for full day kindergarten? This information will have to be gathered.

Next speaker

3 children - elementary, middle and high school

Has not been in Marshall and commented on how beautiful the school is.

Wanted to throw out a couple of ideas.

What are they doing with the 1% income tax they already receive?

It was explained we are paying an incremental tax over time

Is tier 1 busing happening?

It was shared that the tier 1 busing will be voted on in March by the Board.

A challenge on how we move schools - if we move we need to look for local resources to help with the move. Commented that pay to play hurts students in grades 6-12.

Next speaker

Spoke at Kramer and Bogan.

Came to America because of education.

Wants to cut to administration.

He wants his kids to be together as they go through school.

Next speaker

Is it true that Dr. Theroux said he would take a 20% cut for health insurance and that the Board said they would not entertain that idea?

Pat Meade addressed the issue - this is a way to attract admin to stay at Talawanda vs. go to other districts, and that other districts offer these kinds of benefits.

*The benefit was provided to admins after a pay freeze that the admins had for an extended period, when the teaching staff still received regular increases during that time.

Next speaker

2 kids at Marshall

Q: In regard to tier 1 busing, will there be people directing students to get them to the correct bus at TMS?

How will the bus times be affected with the tier 1 system?

How much time will be available for students to transfer at TMS?

Q: If you look at the 3 yr cut replacing nurses with health aids - can health aides administer medication?

Answers will be investigated and shared at a later date.

Next speaker

Q: How will the grade level band and tier one busing save the money it is going to save?

Shaunna explains the difference between the tier 1 buses and grade level banding and the 2 differences in the savings and the total savings (Busing- \$200K, GB-\$400K=\$600K compounding).

Has the decision been made to enact grade banding?

Answer: No

Q: Has questions about strategic plan and state funding.

Could there be a school funding 101 class to help people who are interested in understanding school funding and writing a letter to state reps - wants a better understanding of school funding

Answer: The information is already on the website. School Funding Basics- [Click HERE](#), Ohio History of School Funding- [Click HERE](#), House Bill 920- [Click HERE](#).

Next speaker

Q: Question in regard to the slide presentations from the 2 previous community meetings this week looking different. A slide described savings on Monday night confirmed savings and then the wording changed to “possible savings” for the Bogan meeting.

Is the initial public proposal flexible, will there be different items listed on the savings?

Pat Meade shared that the Board is cautious about making promises on items that could change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Next speaker

Not in favor of grade-banding. Why are we pushing for the grade level banding for next year, can it be pushed back for a year?

Requests the board have the superintendent and administrators pay the same amount as the teachers.

She said the administrators don't do their jobs anyway. Also stated she'd like administrators who want to be here and she wants them to be pushed harder to do their jobs.

Pat Meade shared that administrators are not permitted legally to campaign for school levies - they can only share information. Administrators/BOE cannot “threaten” cuts prior to a school levy, this is against the law.

Next speaker

HS student who shared all the events she participates in at THS.

She shared an experience from TMS when a teacher assigned students in class to go to a corner for which elementary they went through and the students began arguing.

She also explains her experience with grade level banding in Edgewood. She said it's not perfect, but it will save a lot of opportunities for middle and high school students. She is worried the generation coming up won't have opportunities. She also attended the meeting at Kramer and thought it was scary. She thinks grade banding is a creative solution considering the situation.

How are we supposed to set students up for success if we take all of these experiences away at the HS level?

Next speaker

Parent here and is a teacher in another district.

Had an amazing experience at Marshall!

Loves the small class sizes and amazing teachers.

When will this be voted on to give families time to make decisions?

The grade level band proposal seems rushed.
Answer: The Board has not made a decision.

Next speaker

Not sure if he is in support of or against grade banding.
How many districts are currently grade banding in Ohio?
How many choose this for financial reasons?
Shares info about Edgewood and Lakota and grade banding.
Teachers he spoke to at Edgewood are arguing to remove grade banding
1st levy passage rate 37% - 2nd go around it doubles based on statistics he shared.
Why was there not a plan for a second levy to be put on?
Q: What is the opinion of the elementary school teachers - how many subs will we lose?
Answer: More information is needed.

Next speaker

Q: Asked if the district is going to let kids walk down 27 if they live within the 2 mile distance from school? He has concerns with bus transfer at TMS and safety.
How much did the mascot change cost the district?
Mr. Meade shared that the mascot issue did not result in a financial cost, nothing was purchased or changed. Things will ONLY be changed as with typical updates or wear and tear.
Why can't admins pay 20%?
The recent tornado warning - we received a text about the warning but not an all call.
Why can't principals and superintendent handle communications?

Next speaker

Administrator benefits should be considered.
The district cannot afford them the way they are.
The kids and staff should not come before administrators.
Will never vote for a permanent level.
Irresponsible spending.
Why have administrators not been cut?
Why did the district create a position for a football coach?
Question about grade banding and busing.
Chad Hinton shared that Tier1 busing could occur without grade banding, BUT grade banding cannot occur without Tier 1 busing.

Next speaker

Has a student who graduated during Covid, a current HS senior, and a kindergartener.
The slide in the presentation from Monday that was changed to "potentially changed" made a different impact on people's thoughts.
HS and MS students are worried about transportation next year.
Why is athletics a priority before considering transportation?

She's upset that the hs principal is holding a meeting and may discuss information about the grade band proposal while he is also a softball coach.

Next speaker

Has comments in regard to grade level banding and the busing.

She is concerned that we will never go back to 2 tier busing and the hs will never get busing

Is there a plan to go back to hs busing if grade level banding happens?

Pat Meade shared that we must do more with less, and busing is a place where we can be more efficient.

Next speaker

Does talawanda still own the property on Kehr Rd?

Do you know the number of students permitted for a latchkey program?

Is there a solution for the start time for the parents who do not want to take advantage of the tier 1 bus?

Have we taken into consideration the number of parents who will pull students from the district if any of these plans go into effect?

Do we have a position for someone to write grants in the district?

Has talawanda ever attempted tier 1 busing?

Do we have a number of what 20% of benefits for administrators would look like?

Shaunna Tafelski shared that presently it is more valuable to keep the Kehr Rd. property as it is increasing in value and it is more valuable to keep on our books. It would not be an advantage to sell the property now, but later possibly need land that would cost much more. Holli Hansel writes grants for the district.

Next speaker

Shared that we currently have reading buddies and would lose that partnership if the grade level banding goes into effect. She is also concerned with young students on the bus with middle school students and the things they will see and hear on the bus. She is concerned about losing fine arts programs. Her own child needs her phys ed class due to adhd. She is concerned about losing busing at THS.

Next speaker

Is it possible that nothing can happen and put off until another levy can happen?

Pat Meade shared that yes the district could do nothing and keep everything and then a state takeover of the district would be imminent.

Next speaker

She'd like to see/know if the district can create it's own latch key program?

Mr. Meade

Board meeting is March 16

Thanks everyone for coming