

Oak Ridge Elementary Plan B Committee Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2009

Northwest High School

Attending: Beth Allen, Michelle Cole, Shelly Headen, Susan Lincks, Ashley Royal, Mari Snipes, Laura Thompson, Darlene Garrett, Angelo Kidd, Sandra Culmer, Vivian Lane.

I – Solidify Criteria

Angelo Kidd opened the meeting requesting input from members to solidify the criteria for selecting a Plan B. The following is a summary of concerns from the committee:

- Safety
- Available resources
- Cost (renovation and transportation)
- Proximity to Oak Ridge and/or to one another
- Best Option: All grades level together – except Allen Jay option
- Unity of teachers by grade level (teams and grade levels stay together)
- Maintain Identity
- ACES (and other civic youth programs)
- Pre-K
- Administration and support staff
- Important to keep classes in tact when returning to Oak Ridge
- If have to use multiple locations, keep them close for families with students at multiple locations
- Share services of media, cafeteria, technology and make sure no one is short changed on services

II - Discussion

A committee member reported being contacted by Oak Ridge Military Academy and their willingness to help. They would be available to give a tour on Wednesday. Angelo Kidd reiterated that we would need to investigate if the facility meets public school codes.

A committee member shared correspondence she received from Ann Kraft, ORES Principal. She expressed her wish list, hoping to send K-2 to Colfax and grades 3-5 to OR Military Academy. Her

classroom projection for the upcoming school year is one Pre-K and five (5) classes of each grade level, first through fifth. She also will have two EC teachers. She hopes to stay close to home (Oak Ridge), fearful that if students left for private schools, she would lose her staff. Ann Kraft and Bill Stewart identified eleven mobile units available on the Northwest Middle and High school campus'.

A committee member raised the question of codes and what is required for students to occupy the building at OR Military Academy. Angelo Kidd will discuss with Joe Hill from GCS Facilities. The question was raised if the school system could waive code statutes for the short amount of time the building would be occupied. Also, did The School for the Blind meet code when Eastern took over the building in 2007?

Angelo Kidd reported the space available in neighboring schools. Pearce can accommodate the Pre-K classes. Colfax, Reedy Fork, Monticello Brown-Summit can accommodate two grade levels (10 classrooms). Laughlin can accommodate one grade level (5 classrooms).

Committee members looked at several scenarios, prioritizing them as follow:

1. Pre-K at Pearce, K-1 at Colfax, 2-4 at OR Military, 5 at NWMS (mobile units)
2. Pre-K at Pearce, K at Laughlin, 1-3 at Colfax, 4-5 at NWMS/NWHS (mobile units)
3. Pre-K at Pearce, K at Laughlin, 1-5 at Allen Jay Middle (currently Union Hill)
4. Utilize Reedy Fork and Monticello Brown Summit

An underlying concern of the committee is that GCS will not pay to bring the OR Military Academy up to code with space available at current GCS sites.

A committee member suggested that Colfax specialists (art, music, p.e.) allow Oak Ridge teachers to use their classrooms and opt to teach from a cart for this interim period.

If Union Hill parents were given an option to 'opt out' of Colfax and return to Union Hill, would that create enough space to add another grade level at Colfax?

Concerns with Allen Jay include distance for parents, health need of students when parents are so far away, single parents and the travel time needed.

It was suggested by a committee member to tour Allen Jay, as well as Oak Ridge Military Academy. If OR Military is unattainable, the community needs to understand why.

A committee member suggested looking into Calvary Baptist Church on Pleasant Ridge Road. This site would also have to be investigated to see if the facility meets code.

A committee member suggested looking into a staggered schedule, using Colfax on a split schedule. The minimum requirement of hours for a school day was unknown.

Angelo Kidd will meet with Department Directors on Tuesday, July 7th and share concerns of the Plan B Committee.

II – Next Steps

The Committee will tour Allen Jay Middle and Oak Ridge Military Academy on Wednesday, July 8, and reconvene at Northwest High School 's media center Wednesday afternoon to discuss tours and next plan of action.