

NORTH MAC COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #34

Committee of the Whole – Long Range Planning Minutes

South Campus Board Room

July 28, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Board members present were Hays, Handy, Alexander, Spann and Cole. Also present were Superintendent Cullen and members of the administrative team, Cimarossa, Downs, Horn, McMillin and Bitner.

President Hays called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Discussion was first centered on the mission and vision statements written at the last planning meeting. The board wants to make sure that all staff members feel they are a part of "our mission".

In looking at the results of the district's first community focus group held in April it seems that many goals are interconnected such as technology and teaching; finances and facilities. The school may strive to add new technology but teachers still need to be able to use it in the classroom. The community is concerned about the older buildings in our district but without working to improve school finances, maintenance or replacement is hard to provide. It was agreed that goals are needed to work for improvements in the long term. The board sets the goals and administration comes up with way to help staff meet those goals.

There was discussion about where the technology goal fits - is it a goal unto itself or would it be better to make sure all teachers can use current and new technologies available to them?

In planning the next community forum, it was asked how we can have a forum for parents so they can feel free to talk openly. One way is to have a teacher forum after school and the same evening have one for just parents.

The board asked to what level did administration see parental involvement at North Mac schools. Mr. McMillan reported that middle school parents are very involved with the school. They pick up and drop off students, help with homework, volunteer in the classroom, etc. The high school has much less interaction. The students are more mobile and the level of work is more advanced.

All members of the group were frustrated with the coverage of the district by local media. Negative stories get more attention than the good things that happen at school.

The administration was asked if all high school students are getting the counseling they need to make wise future decision. How can we guide students to become successful?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.


