Planning Session

October 16, 2018
7:00 p.m. SHS TV Studio

MINUTES

Present:
Dr. Patricia Corbett, Chairman
Mr. Michael Carney, Jr., Vice Chairman
Mrs. Pamela Berry, Secretary
Mr. Bernard Campbell, Member
Mr. Peter Morgan, Member

Also Present:
Dr. Michael Delahanty, Ed. D., Superintendent
Mrs. Maura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Support
Mrs. Deborah Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations

Dr. Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING SESSION

Salem High School Redesign Study
Dr. Delahanty reviewed Mrs. Collyer’s previous presentation in regards to the Board’s goal of studying the structure at Salem High School. He reviewed details of the committee’s findings and commended the members on their time commitment and dedication. The Superintendent asked the Board for direction based on the findings especially in light of the fact the administrators will soon begin planning for the 2019-2020 school year; specifically changing the required credits for graduating as this is a policy.

Dr. Delahanty introduced Mrs. Collyer, Salem High School Principal, who reviewed some of the highlights of the findings and suggested recommendations. Mr. Campbell asked for details about failing grades and class schedules. There was discussion about grading and other forms of success measurement. Mrs. Collyer responded to both questions. Mr. Carney asked what the impact on AP classes would be. Mrs. Collyer explained. He also asked about the Freshman Academy. Mrs. Collyer explained all students in grades 9-12 would be on the same schedule. Mr. Morgan asked for details on the content of advisories. Mrs. Berry asked for clarification on the timing of advisories and managed time block. Mrs. Collyer clarified both items.
Dr. Corbett asked how changing the number of required credits would be transitioned. Mr. Campbell asked how students can take an eighth credit. Mrs. Collyer elaborated. Dr. Delahanty explained if the Board decided to move forward, the graduation credit policy would need to be changed and possibly the grading policy. The Board unanimously endorsed the recommendations.

Sale of North Main Street Land
Dr. Delahanty noted the Salem School District owns approximately 14 acres off of North Main Street. The Board was provided appraisal information from Dale Gerry of Shurtleff Appraisals of Hampstead. The Superintendent said the monies from the sale of this property would be used to offset the Woodbury School renovation. There would need to be a warrant article drafted for March, and if sold, the District could include the funds as a reduction of the first year’s interest. If authorized in March by the community to sell the property, the District would connect with realtors to discuss sale options. Mr. Morgan asked the Superintendent to confirm the District currently has the capacity to make expansions at the schools should enrollments rise. Dr. Delahanty gave details of current land availability. Mrs. Berry noted, in the past, the public was not in favor of large schools. Mr. Campbell said he might look to assign the funds from the sale of the land to the Athletic Trust Fund for completion of athletic fields at the high school but he was open to discussion. Mr. Morgan agreed there would need to be a discussion on where to assign the funds. The Board agreed to pursue the sale of this property. Dr. Delahanty will add as a future agenda item and draw up a Warrant Article.

Other
Dr. Corbett reminded members of the budget meeting on Saturday, October 20 at 8:00 a.m. and budget books would be delivered on Thursday.

Adjournment
Motion by Mr. Carney, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adjourn.  
Motion carried 5-0

The Board adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Lucille Ramsey  
Recording Secretary, Salem School Board

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