



## **West Linn – Wilsonville Schools**

**Long Range Planning Committee Meeting  
District Administration Building  
Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 6:00 PM**

### **Long Range Planning Committee Meeting**

1. Call to Order: 6:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call

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| <b>Alina Egland<br/>Miriam Pinoli<br/>Mary Pettenger<br/>Jenny Koll<br/>Ryan Ingersoll<br/>David Ruelas</b> | <b>Dan Schumaker, Board Liaison<br/>Pat McGough, Chief Operations Officer<br/>Remo Douglas, Bond Program Manager<br/>Amy Berger, Bond Coordinator<br/>Ellen Leventhal, Bond Accountant<br/>Andrew Kilstrom, Communications Director<br/>Kathy Ludwig, Superintendent<br/>David Pryor, Assistant Superintendent</b> |
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3. Introduction:
  - a. Welcome Dr. David Pryor, Assistant Superintendent for Primary Schools
  - b. Welcome new Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC or The Committee) member Jenny Koll.
4. Review:
  - a. The Committee met in July to discuss the Flo Analytics demographics report on ten-year District enrollment projections. The notion of smaller schools and fiscal responsibility came out of the meeting. The Committee asked staff to gather information on factors involved in maintaining smaller schools. In response, a memo was provided to address three factors used for consideration: cost of core operations, cost of renovations, and educational program and services impact.
5. Small District Schools Committee Discussion:
  - a. The Assistant Superintendent was asked for the ideal primary school size. Ideally the size is in a sweet spot between too small and over capacity, with approximately 350 students. Small schools, with one or two classrooms per grade, are limited in distributing students and balancing student cohorts. One classroom per grade has no flexibility in absorbing enrollment fluctuations or taking into consideration a student's learning or social-emotional needs. A single classroom per grade can also result in an unfortunate larger class size. It is easier to redistribute class size with a larger student population with two or more classroom sections per grade. In addition, teachers are spread thin at a small school and do not have the benefit of grade level collaboration, which research has shown effects

student achievement.

- b. A Committee member asked if this will be a topic presented to the community. They pointed out that numbers don't always represent people and those impacted. Community engagement meetings would be an opportunity to share their experiences and concerns. Busing needs would need to be considered as well.
- c. School boundaries were discussed and current over-capacity at West Linn High School. The 10-year enrollment projection shows a downward trend, along with the increase in enrollment at Riverside High School, resulting in a more favorable capacity.
- d. A Committee member expressed concern about the equity of CTE programs at the high school level. All three high schools offer CTE classes and increasing those programs is limited by staffing and funding. STEAM, CTE and professional pathways was one of the task forces for the current update to the Long Range Plan.
- e. As part of the planning for the third high school, a task force was assembled to engage the community and staff. A similar task force could be formed to address the question of small schools by engaging all stakeholders in the community, neighborhoods, and staff to engage as many people as possible.
- f. When opening the new Athey Creek Middle School, there were also community engagement sessions, led by 3J Consulting, acting as a neutral party. A third party could similarly lead the facilitation of a small schools task force, taking community feedback and synthesizing the information while providing credibility and confidence to the community. The committee stated that the question of whether a school is too small needs community input.
- g. The Committee agreed that the small schools issue is important enough to recommend the formation of a task force to the Board. The Board liaison will bring the discussion forward to the Board.
- h. A Committee member asked how District school size relates to the Long Range Facilities Plan update and will it get sidetracked by this discussion. A separate task force allows the group to continue its work. The task force takes on the discussion while the committee works on the plan and focuses on the Bond summit. The small schools task force would bring findings back to the LRPC which in turn would provide final recommendations to the Board. One or two members of the Committee would be a part a 10-12 member task force, including staff and community members. There will be a similar task force to address boundary issues.
- i. A committee member recapped the process to reach this point in the small schools conversation. The committee asked staff to procure updated enrollment projections. Upon review of the projections and noting that some of the West Linn primary schools were small and well below capacity, the committee asked staff to provide consideration factors for operating small schools. In response to the information provided by staff, the committee directed staff to form a task force to study additional information and engage the community in a conversation about small schools. The findings of a task force would ultimately become part of the

LRP as an appendix, providing credibility that the process was done with community and stakeholder input.

Adjourn LRPC Meeting: 7:20 p.m.

Interim meeting: September 18, 2024

Next quarterly meeting: October 16, 2024