

May 2, 2014

Nick Brown, Superintendent
Hawthorn District 73

Re: Reorganization Committee Meeting 3
April 30, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Summary of a Collaborative Workshop held at 5:30 – 8:00pm, Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at Hawthorn Middle School North Library. These notes record our understanding of items discussed and decisions made at this meeting. Please notify us within seven (7) calendar days of any necessary additions or corrections.

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

Mimi Batson (TL teacher), Nancy Beaumont (MSS parent), Nick Brown (Superintendent), Liz Burda (Lincoln parent), Nicole Carson (Aspen parent), Becky Clay (Aspen parent), Robin Cleek (TL parent) Robert Collins (MSN principal), Michelle Comitor (board member), Bill Fredricksen (Aspen principal), Leslie Getlin (DL parent), Elissa Gong (EN parent), Andrea Johnson (DL parent), Melissa Kaufman (MSN parent), Vicki Kieffer (TL principal), Becky Kotzon-Gustafson (ES Social Worker), Meghan Lane (TL parent), Deb Logan (MSS teacher), Karen Maturo (Coordinator of Staff Development), Tara Moncada, (EN teacher) Millie Naughton (DL teacher), Beth Palid (EN parent), Jared Reardon (MSN teacher), Shannon Sheridan (ES parent), and Randi Szoke (Aspen teacher)

ITEMS DISCUSSED

Nick Brown reviewed the Agenda:

- I. Groups get back together to add anything to documents created
- II. Review Software and collect questions to be answered
- III. Decisions
 - a. K-5
 - b. Grade Level Center
 - c. FDK
- IV. Other options for proposals (These must address concerns)
 - a. Hybrid Model of grade level center/neighborhood
 - b. Any other options/ideas

Calendar

Can we finalize next week several options?

How and when to get Public Feedback?

May 22nd or 27th

June 2nd or 3rd

Guidelines for options

Decisions by the board regarding direction to the Reorganization Committee after reflecting on the proposed strategic plan:

1. Full day kindergarten at all schools. The Board would like the Reorganization Committee to explore the opportunity to provide a full day kindergarten program for all students.
2. Grandfather clause. The community has provided consensus. They would like current students to be grandfathered into their current school. The Board of Education would like the Reorganization Committee to determine how to grandfather students into their current schools. If not possible, the Board wants a compelling rationale why it would not work.

3. Dual Language. The School of Dual Language is a curriculum program school as opposed to a choice. The board has affirmed that any reorganization recommendations include the School of Dual Language as it currently exists (K-5) and has asked for more information to be gathered from the DL community to determine whether there is community interest in expansion of the program to K-8.
 4. School Choice. The Board of Education has agreed that the current state of school choice is not supported nor in alignment with the newly proposed strategic plan. They are open to other choice possibilities in the future. The Board is directing the Reorganization Committee to not maintain the current choice model in the reorganization plan.
- **HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGY #2:** Implement a plan that identifies the **facilities and resources** required to provide an equitable distribution of those resources across the District.
 - **HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGY #6:** Identify and implement common commitments and set expectations to ensure **equitable access** to high quality programs for all students district-wide.
 - **HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGY #7:** *Expand **early intervention** opportunities such as full day kindergarten.*

Revisit the Problems to be solved

- AYP – Required by Federal Law to reorganize for North now and South next year.
- Disparity between building usage levels
- Provide an equivalent learning environment (programs) for all students
- Provide efficient use and allocation of district resources.
- Balance demographic disparity among buildings as best as possible.
- Control the enrollment numbers and patterns of students to maximize the use of the buildings.
- If possible, locate space for EC/Pre-k so long range plans can be made on space for the programs.

Meeting notes:

- I. Groups revisited each of the options:

Team 1 – Neighborhood Schools with FDK

Team 2 – Neighborhood Schools without FDK (1 tuition, 1 extended, 3/4/5 half day per building)

Team 3 - Grade Level Schools with FDK

Team 4 – Grade Level Schools without FDK (1 tuition, 1 extended, 3/4/5 half day per building)

See meeting minutes from April 23 for illustrations and pros and cons.

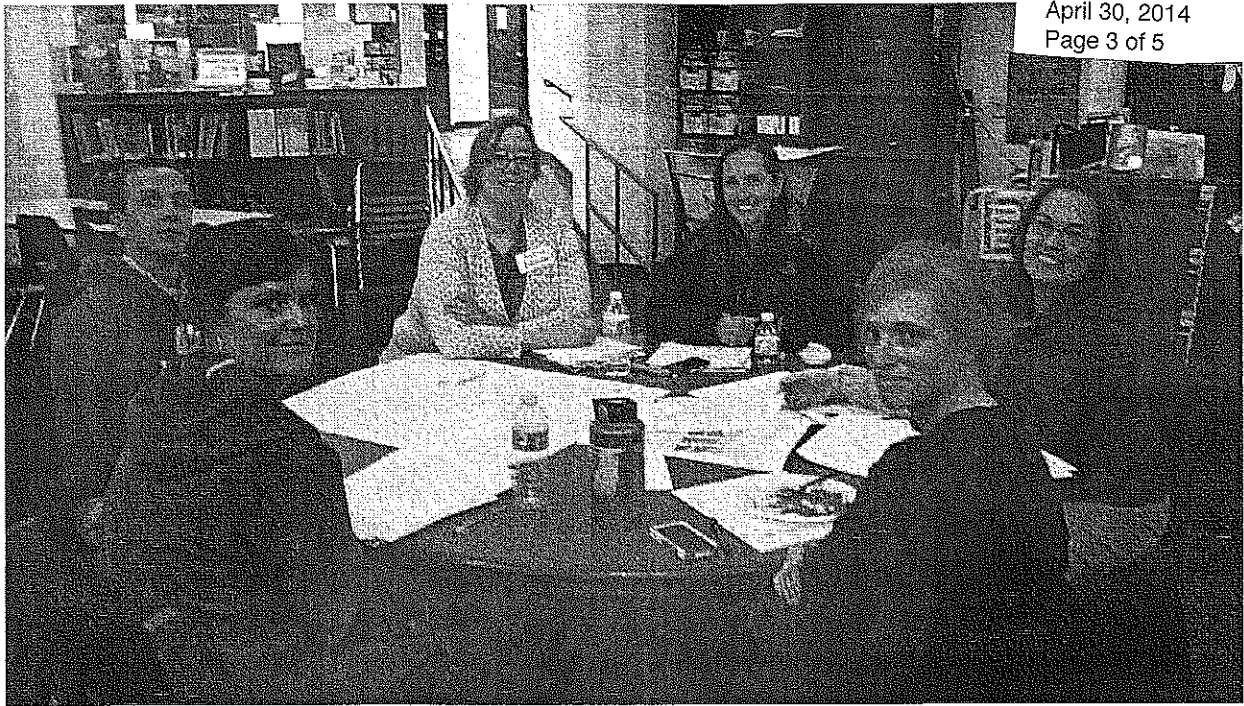
- II. The district demonstrated software that can assist in answering questions about school boundaries. More students live north of Townline Road that attend the district schools than south of Townline Road. The number varies for each grade level. This software will assist in further studies and provide information for recommendations.
- III. The decision was made to provide a paper summarizing the investigation of Grade Level Schools to document the workshop process. The committee will not proceed with an all Grade Level Schools option any further unless directed by the Board.

The committee will proceed with exploring neighborhood schools for recommendations. The three recommendations discussed so far are:

1. Neighborhood Schools with FDK
2. Neighborhood Schools without FDK (1 tuition, 1 extended, 3/4/5 half day per building)
3. One of the "fresh ideas" that may include a hybrid model of grade level center/neighborhood.

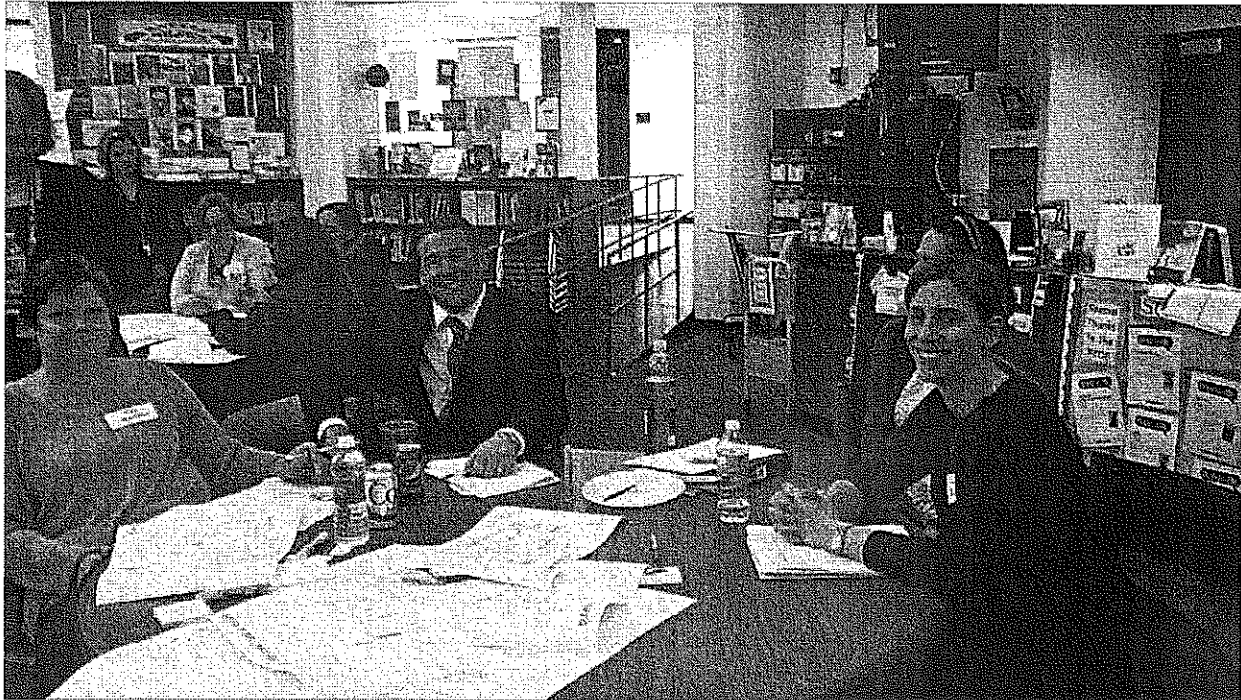
- IV. The teams were remixed and given the task of creating other options for proposals. In general discussion – grandfathering was defined as a staff issue and not a necessarily a building issue. Families follow staff they are comfortable with and with which they have had a successful learning experience. The following are the comments and options discussed by each team:

Team 1



1. No boundaries, incoming parents rank choices 1-5, siblings in reduces the available spots for incoming students.
2. Dual language in own building vs Dual language shares building with Townline or another program
3. Consolidate smaller sections in Elementary North and change boundaries to reduce # of EN sections per grade. Remaining EN and DL sections share EN building. Neighborhood/boundary driven distribution between schools (accept for DL).
4. Neighborhood schools. Allow 5-10% of space for transfer of students by petition. Boundaries drawn with attention given to not splitting up neighborhoods.

Team 2

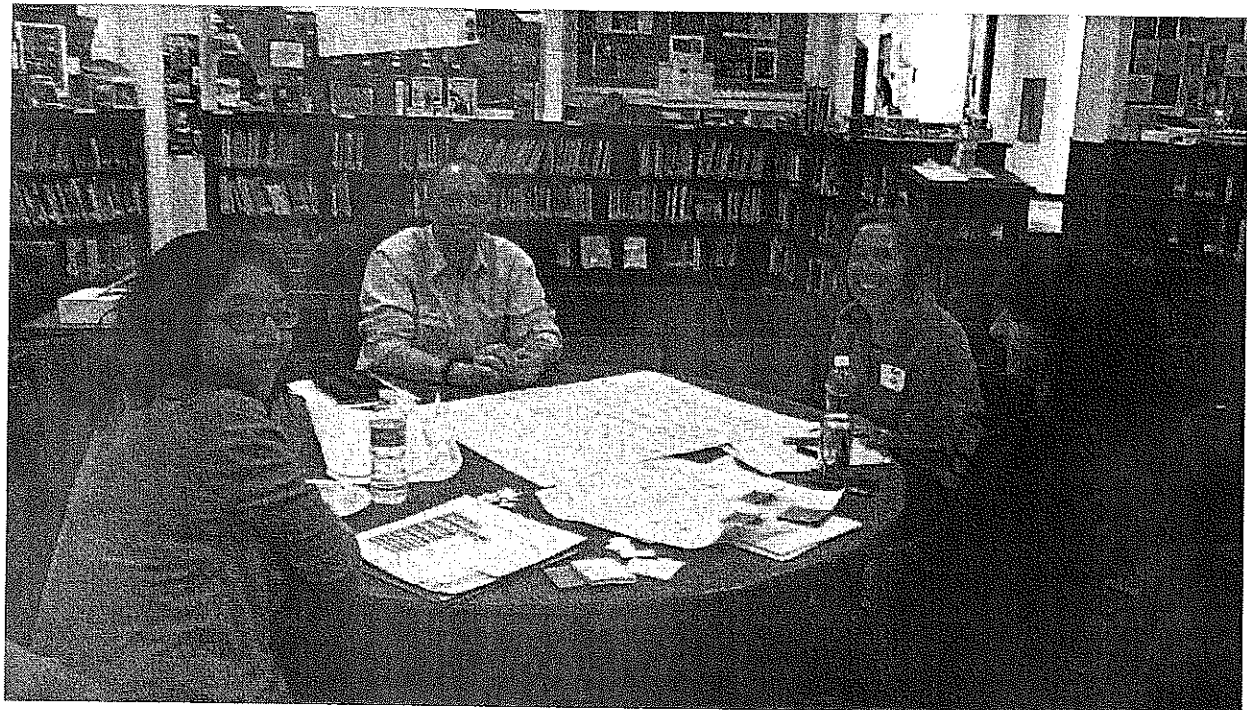


1. Where is DL? Is there a flex building? North has a reputation that needs to be overcome.
2. What drives our choice? Start times, Friendships, and Family
3. Fresh idea to match MS/MN distribution. EN/ES K-3 centers, TL/Aspen 4-5 centers, DL stays K-5



1. Odd and Even addresses then by main dividing line (north/south)
2. Have 4 choice schools that parents rank to central numbers/resources. (keep K-5 schools)
3. Split up neighborhoods into 4 sections to create mini neighborhood schools.
4. Keep all K-5 options and EC/PreK @ Lincoln and full day kindergarten.
5. Keep DL at current location.
6. Grandfather 5th graders by choice to control numbers. Lottery based on space.
7. K-1 Instructional Assistants as number of students increase, early intervention, dedicated staff.
8. Enrichment service/program for K-3.

Team 4



1. Move Aspen to EN – maintain 4 sections
2. DL moves to Aspen
3. Can we look at grandfathering TL students now?
4. Will EN and TL students fit into TL together? We think we can move EN students into TL with all of the current TL students allowing us to grandfather them in
5. ES K-5 Neighborhood



The following schedule was discussed:

May 7 and 14 – finalize recommendations to the board and community workshop

May 27 and June 2 were dates discussed as possible public presentations and workshops for the community. It is intended that the recommended three options would be presented in a Gallery Walk fashion. Once dates are decided, they will be communicated to the community on line and in bilingual handouts.

The hope is that on June 9th the School Board will be prepared to vote on the recommendations purposed by the committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Legat Architects, Inc.

Robin R. Randall