

Personal Notes

These are my (Reed Sutman) personal notes from the September 12th Board of Education Meeting. They were taken during the meeting. I left as the consent calendar agenda item was beginning, so these include district highlights, public participation, and reports from administration.

These notes have not been vetted for accuracy and have not been edited.

Notes:

Dfta rally was roughly 530-620 when members/rallyers started going in.

Adm trucking dps highlight.

Long term sub to certified teacher program, district highlight.

Kcb asks if recommend to others? She says ye. Need good support system.

Banks asks how the process was, regarding license transfer.

public participation

Mark glause. Dennis lab. Moved here in 2020. Old & decrepid, no green space. Your history is not my child's future. Did not want to live near dennis. Loves the west end though. He's seen new businesses. Says TIF will help millikin heights. Park district stuff. Advocates for removal of both dennis labs and building new school at fairview park pool. Says get district analysis and create a plan. Will increase property values. This is not a bandaid solution.

Michelle Mitchell. Clapping and hollering from dfta crowd. Dfta pres. We are a family. We are the support. Do not turn your backs on us. We are here to stay.

Reed Sutman. Self. Was the district negligent?

Al Scheider passing out questions to board. No position, but need discussion & answers.

1. Is new dennis location permanent?
2. Are modulars permanent?
3. Is new gla location permanent?
4. Is SW still neighborhood school?
5. Will dennis become pbl/magnet school?
6. Is there plan for complete dennis middle school athletics plan?
7. Has new dennis location been found in SW?
8. Has it been decided not to return dennis students to west end? (May be mis stated here)

No strong position, wants to hear from community. Wants survey of SW dennis community. Would like vote at next meeting on repairs of 2 buildings. Says it's our responsibility to be responsible for decaying buildings and take accountability.

Kcb asks about final reports from engineering firms. 2 are in right now, says clark. Metzger. Submittals from 2 firms for district wide analysis. Wetzel asks timeframe. Reached put to 10 or 12 firms. 4 callbacks. 2 submitted. Banks asks how we find a 3rd. Curry says want to bring them to you at next meeting. Submittals were due last Friday.

By rule must go to previous engagements. Kcb asks about folowing up. Metzger says some contacted back saying structural engineering was not their specialty. Some structural firms from his past didnt respond. Just not a lot of structural engineers out there.

Wetzel. Need structural reports, demographic info & population decline, and costs. Clark says that's what thwyre doing and would prioritize dennis. Dion asks if just dennis or all? Curry says long term planning is not part of these firms. Banks asks if we

need firm. Clark says we do.

Kcb asks how dennis is doing. On agenda.

Reynolds says weve had 2 quotes for repair. 1.1 mil for staircase. Curry says estimates. Curry said a couple other firms could do estimate.

Reynolds asks what we as a board thinks about repairs for 100 yo building. Reynolds not comfy putting 1 mil into 100 yo building. Banks would rather wait on district wide analysis. Kcb expects 2-3 year for analysis & repair. Needs community input. Reynolds wants board to offer options to community. Scheider says we are not offering them options if we dont repair. Says theres not a good location on westend. Gla not good for athletics. Middle school includes athletics. Kcb nods at "these questions need to be answered".

Wetzel says board needs to look at history of dps buildings last 50 years. 1971 adding addition to building, then closing building year later. Big pressure for dennis. Lets not make knee jerk reaction. Lets think long term. Dion. Hard to make decisions on repairs that dont fix other problems like athletics and green space. Says million per year for modulars while we figure out good long term plan is best. Frustrating that things dont move fast.

Kcb. Wants community and parent involvement. Asks community to participate.

Clevenger. Need to look at professional staff for a roadmap. Rushing would be long term strategic mistake. Long term demographic/community makeup important. Cant vote at next meeting on dennis repair bc we havent reached that point, need more info. Wants preliminary roadmap at next meeting. Appreciates will's thoughtfulness.

Scheider. Concerned about road map / bold plan & took 1.5 years to make decisions, and kids ledt without a/c. Says things can be done while making long term plan. Doesnt want to close options for dennis. Clevenger disagrees and says patience is keeping options open.

Scheider. 2y 4 mo ago, asked for staff survey. Still hasnt happened. We need to hear from them about curriculum, standardized testing, cell phones. "Been assaulted by media" for reading scores. Need staff input. Need summit on addressing educational levels. Need survey.

Kcb. Speaking as a parent of emotionally struggling kids. Stress importance of dfta and security personnel. You are seen. You are valued. Has utilized dfta and security often. Take those things into consideration when voting on contracts.

Dion. His wife is a TA, so he will abstain on dfta. Kcb thanks for transparency.

reports from administration

Parent university, hoping to increase parent engagement.

Extended day. Data. Principal survey. Parent survey. 1306 families registered. Capped enrollment (at how many?) to ensure quality. Dion asks about funding. Cares funded. Will bring rec forward for future. TBD. Clark thinks they'll be able to continue. Good for 2-3 years. Marianne says sept 30, 2024 grant ends but can extend throught first semester. Banks if waitlist due to staffing or funding. Lady says staffing. Wetzel says this program helped his family.

Jeff Dase, DEI update. Antiracism. Black student summits. 1st class educators. Bias reporting form online. Dei hiring questions. Purchasing racially and culturally relevant texts for library. Juneteenth holiday, indigenous people's day oct 9th. Cultural days mentioned in board packets. Racist/offensivr imagery in buildings to be looked at. Look at if demographics in buildings are represented. Mandatory DEI training and online courses, including lgbtqia+. Recruit diverse staff - metric has been met. Hired 178 diverse hires since racial policy. 3 native american. 158 black. 3 or 4 asian and 3 or 4 hispanic? Annual reports. Wsoy radio updates. Revised discipline and safety system. Employee resource groups - district wide dei team, working on school-based teams including students. Affinity groups, mentions gsa (gay-straight alliance). Regular reports on student performance relevant to diversity. Board expects policy recommendations. Aug 4, 2020, racism policy adopted. Thanks beth creighton, former board member. (Returns later). Million fathers march. Hispanic heritage month festival sept 17th.

Dennis lab. Kamie Meador, Keith Creighton. Meador. Students started sept 5th. Big gratitude. Had dropoff/pickup issues & made changes. Need to start library space. Looking for speech and social work folders. Love kent metzger. He shows up and makes things happen. 2 successful open houses. Creighton. Says we're doing great and wants to change narrative about modulars being insufficient. Continue relationships with millikin. Figuring it out. Clark says kids were excited to be back. Clevenger appreciates the teamwork. Dion asks if he can visit buildings. Meador jokes, asking if he teaches 6th grade ELA.

2024 budget update. Few more tweaks before next meeting. County was under-assessed. Corporate personal property replacement tax. 70s got rid of ad valorem taxes and made a formula. 6% eav. \$1m increase in evidence based funding. \$4 mil decrease in cpprt. Vacancies high. Unknown salary increases. B&g. Tax levy increased 1.2mil. 3.8m in property taxes. 2.5m from ebf. \$1m from cpprt. Energy cost higher, energy use unpredictable. Expenses have outpaced tax levy, padded by ebf?. Transportation. See slide. Imrf. Unlimited tax levy. Kept tax rate steady last 5 years, but reserves are depleting. Roughly 6.4mil working cash available. Need move 2mil to imrf. Wants to levy additional 2mil in these funds and under-levy in tort. December convo for levies. Capitol. \$2m in 1 cent sales tax. 500k in cpprt. Expenditures invlude modulars and mac football. Turf and track work tbd, roof work tbd. Tort fund (insurance liability). Been spending down reserves for metal detection. Levy 2mil less. Hls. Spending down reserves on roof and window work. Been saving to use it. Next steps: drill deeper on cost of transportation. Budget hearing prior to next meeting. On sept 26th.