

Monroe County Community School Corporation
Secondary School Realignment Task Force
May 19, 2005

The Secondary School Realignment Task Force met at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2005, in Room 105 at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington.

Following introductions, Dr. Maloy expressed appreciation to participants for their willingness to serve on this task force and suggested that it is important to carry some of the same procedures forward from the elementary realignment process. Therefore, some members of the Elementary Realignment Task Force had been invited to serve on this committee. He said although the Elementary Realignment Task Force did not deal with middle school and high school, the group was asked to look for some kind of flow for continuity. He said the elementary group talked about neighborhood schools but 'neighborhood' is different from yesteryear because people used to walk to school.

Dr. Maloy suggested that the group would want to discuss how it will operate and how it will communicate and keep the public informed. He added that it is important to have an open mind about what is best for the organization, not just a particular school. He said that even though the initial plan may include somewhat equal numbers for the two high schools, the charge is not to see equalization with student populations from now forward because population shifts will continue to occur. He reviewed the charge to the committee:

Look at secondary school realignment options and bring recommendations to the School Board that will keep large groups of children together as they move from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school and in that process, see a better balance in high school populations.

Karin St. John, co-facilitator for the Elementary Realignment Task Force, had been asked to co-facilitate this group. She reviewed the elementary realignment process and said it is anticipated that this group would finish by October or November because there are not as many schools and fewer pieces to juggle.

Scott Smart, co-facilitator for the Elementary Realignment Task Force, talked about the importance of setting ground rules for what the group wants to do prior to beginning its work. He said it would be helpful during the process to go back over what are the goals and how to achieve those goals. He advised that during discussion, the group would often go back to 'what is important.' He added that it is also important to know that it is impossible to live by all of the established priorities all the time.

Danny Shields, co-facilitator for the Elementary Realignment Task Force, talked briefly about the importance of building consensus and of group ownership of that acceptance. He said the elementary task force kept a theory that decisions were important for every student in the school system.

Following some discussion about the elementary realignment process and how that may or may not relate to this group's charge, there was an open forum for questions and comments. Task Force members discussed group norms and principles of realignment. Draft copies of those documents will be prepared and considered for final consensus at the next meeting.

Task Force members reviewed an attendance flowchart from elementary to middle schools and high schools, effective for 6th graders for 2005-06 and going into middle school for 2006-07. They also reviewed a possible flow of students after elementary realignment that would solve middle school and high school splits that were created by elementary realignment decisions.

Assignment for Next Meeting: Review information shared at the meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 15, 2005 – 6:30 p.m. – Room 105 at the Administration Center

Present: Carla Allen, Susan Alspaugh, Margaret Baechtold, Criss Beyers, John Carter, Peggy Chambers, Joe Childers, Robert Courtney, Joe Doyle, Pam Gunkel, John Maloy, Andrea Mobley, Danny Shields, Mike Shipman, Debbie Shoup, Scott Smart, Karin St. John, Janis Stockhouse.

J.Tupper, Recorder