

Long Term Facilities Planning Committee (LTFPC)  
Minutes – April 26, 2010 3:00 p.m.

Present: Peter Horoschak  
Richard D'Agostino  
Robert Bushell  
William Sangster  
William McCaffrey  
William Jutras  
Gerry Habershaw  
John Livsey  
Catherine Bonang  
Kathleen Adams  
Nancy Plumb  
Joseph Peltier  
David Testa

Resource Members present: Dianne Silvia, Dennis Mullen  
Guest Resource Member: Mark Carruolo, Director of Planning & Management,  
City of Warwick

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Handout from Kids Count - Indicators of Child Well-being, 2010 (Profile of Warwick)  
(See attached)

- Information includes census-based indicators; economic well-being; health, safety and education (compares Warwick with the State of Rhode Island)
- Statistics should not directly impact a decision to consolidate or reorganize but rather assist the Committee in making final recommendations to school committee.
- If a funding formula is voted on by the legislature and implemented to provide additional monies for each student eligible for free and reduced lunch....parents must make this declaration to the schools. Important for the district funding as well as being able to meet the needs of the students.
- Does not include 11<sup>th</sup> grade test scores
- Warwick schools are making sufficient progress
- Suspension statistics, from Kids Count, are based on the number of days, not number of instances

Gerry Habershaw presented a 3-5 year longitudinal study for junior and senior high schools which he developed from the statistics provided at the March 26, 2010 meeting. (See attached) Kindergarten and grade 1 numbers are estimates on this chart. NESDEC cohort projection model has been accurate within 3-5 % for estimating population in the next five years. Calculating cohort survival by grade is a viable means to concluding accurate enrollment projections.

Chart:

- Indicates a continued decline in enrollment in graduation year 1 (2012-2015) to graduation year 5 (2016-2019)

- Enrollment in 3 years at high schools, not weighted and divided by 2: 1581/per school
- Enrollment in 5 years at the high schools, not weighted and divided by 2: 1509/per school
- Veterans can house 1600; Pilgrim -1700; Toll Gate – 1340 Declining population can easily be accommodated by two high schools\*
- \* Noted: Gerry Habershaw's statistics did not include weighting (Special Education students at the high school are counted as 1.5; at the junior high schools special education students are counted as 2)
- Option: 2 high schools; add grade 6 to grades 7 & 8;\*\* Maximum capacity at Gorton is 957—grade 6 could easily be accommodated; Maximum capacity at Aldrich is 930
- Option: Close a high school and bring all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of the city to a true middle school in 3-5 years
- Need to add 200 to high school and 200 to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades because of weighted student enrollment requirements in the WTU negotiated agreement.

#### \*\*Certification issues

- What happens to teachers when school changes from elementary to middle school model? Will teachers be required to have middle school endorsement? WTU President Jim Ginolfi expressed his concern regarding teacher certification to the Committee

#### Full Day Kindergarten

- Small numbers in Warwick. If mandated by the state, space for full day kindergartens would have to be considered.
- Approximately \$3.6 million to put in a total of 16 full day kindergartens. The contract requires a full time teacher assistant and full time teacher.
- Each kindergarten room costs approximately \$5,000 to outfit

#### Other factors to consider for long term change

- Condition of facilities
- Age & cost to keep the school running
- Buildings-disability accessibility, parking
- Athletic facilities
- Career Center-start classes for grade 9
- Alternative programs
- Transportation
- A larger student body vs. a smaller student body

Mark Carruolo said he reviewed the presentation of March 29<sup>th</sup> LTFPC meeting and concurs with the statistics presented by the Directors. From 1980 to present, school age population/enrollment shows a constant decline every year 1 to 2 %. His projections are very close to WPS projections, the margin of error is negligible. Mr. Carruolo believes WPS could reduce to 2 high schools and within the next year or two, close an additional elementary school. A junior high school could immediately be closed; the numbers are manageable with 2 schools. However, the effect this would have on educational quality and the academic needs of students must be considered by the committee. Mr. Carruolo

said it's important for the school department to look at a projected 5-year plan that provides for incremental consolidation.

Mr. Carruolo said he expects RIAC to release the airport expansion details by early summer. He believes the airport will expand to the South, across Main Avenue. RIAC has accelerated its home buy-out program and continues to buy property located within the safety zone. Homes on the West side of the airport will also be taken –up to Palace and Morse Avenues. There is a 95% participation rate in the buy-out program, with expected completion from 2015 – 2020. Wickes Elementary School is expected to lose 2/3 of its population. Tracking relocation—50% relocated in the City of Warwick.

Mr. Carruolo is attempting to negotiate air quality monitoring at Wickes site. RIAC has said they will not enter into discussion to buy Wickes Elementary School.

T.F. Greene Airport plans to attract coast to coast, non-stop flights. Car rental facilities will be off-site, opening larger capacity for parking and building another garage.

Committee comments, questions or ideas should be forwarded to [LTFPC@warwickschools.org](mailto:LTFPC@warwickschools.org)

The next LTFPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2010, 3-5 pm, Warwick Administration Building.