

Community Forum Outline

Background:

Over the course of the past school year, the school board hired Dr. Linda Hanson from *School Exec Connect* to lead us through the strategic planning process after considering several proposals. Shortly thereafter, a committee was formed to begin the planning process. A survey was developed and sent out to the community, and a follow up community engagement day occurred in May.

As a result of the survey and community engagement day, there were 4 committees formed. The four committees are Culture and Climate, Student Learning, Communications, and Facilities and Finance. The four committees have taken information gathered through the community engagement day, and they are developing goals that will be combined into a strategic plan document.

A co-chair representative from each of these committees met in August to form these committees and move the process forward. As the oversight or steering committee started discussing our next steps, it was clear that we needed to tackle the grade configuration question immediately. The results of the survey showed us that grade configuration was an important topic, and also a potentially divisive topic. There was a question on the survey presented as, "What type of configuration would you prefer if money was not a factor?" The results were split evenly.

Milburn currently has two buildings that house students in K-8. The school board has discussed the possibility of changing the configuration to what are called grade level centers. For example, we would have an elementary school that housed students in K-5, and a separate middle school that houses students in grades 6-8.

Although the school board had recently voted to retain the current configuration for the last school year, the topic of reconfiguration continues to be a pressing topic.

Expectations for the survey:

We are all working together for the benefit of our children.

We are not going to decide our grade configuration as a result of the survey. We are simply at the beginning stages of our investigation. The purpose of today is to give the facilities and finance committee a list of priorities to investigate when examining this question. Ultimately, the school board will be making the final decision, but facilities and finance committee would like to know the key issues that the community has prioritized when making a final recommendation to the school board.

Future Planning:

This is the beginning stage.

We will continue to report progress to the community as we move forward.

The administration will need to have a decision made in January for the next school year so we can properly plan our staffing needs. The school board would like a recommendation in December.

The committee may decide on more community forums as they see fit.

The committee may also request another year for evaluation of this decision before they can make a recommendation to the school board.