

Restructuring Committee Report

Restructuring Committee meeting on 10/25/11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office, Ellsworth

Board members present:

Chuck Hodge, Wendilee O'Brien, Lynne Witham, Brett Jones, Geoff Zentz, Dick Gray

Also in attendance:

Michael Eastman, David Burks, Ginny Dennison, Superintendent Suzanne Lukas

New members were in attendance, so we had another discussion about the need for a strategic plan to provide big picture guidance to inform goal-setting and priorities for the budget, programming, and to let the small schools who may be worried about closing know what to expect for the next 3-5 years. The need for community input for the planning was also discussed. It became clear that we should investigate strategic planning process models. Suzanne gave us a quick lesson about Quality Management Process. A strategic design is created by the board to reflect the preferred future for the district, and strategic alignment is undertaken by the administration, faculty, and staff to align the policies, procedures, training resources and processes with the board design, and also to collect data that is used to measure progress and re-inform the design.

The committee discussed whether it was better to gather community input at the beginning of the Strategic Planning Process, or to create a draft plan within the committee and then present it for public comment and input. Since Suzanne and two members of the committee were attending the MSMA conference, they were charged with going to the session on Strategic Planning and bringing back information about the models presented. Wendilee O'Brien suggested an organizational structure known as site-based management, and the chair will do some research on this. It was agreed that we would change the name of the committee to the Strategic Planning Committee to better reflect the work we will be doing. Because the committee feels we need to act quickly, as a strategic plan and community input is important to the success of the RSU, the next meeting of the committee was set for Wednesday, November 9th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office in Ellsworth.