

Oak Ridge School Board

February 27, 2017, meeting

Three of the reports and action items seemed significant: the 2020 Report, the unanimous vote on the Preschool Site, and the School Calendar for 2018–19.

Almost two years ago, an overall Strategic Action Plan was drawn up by some members of the School Board, community, and school staff. Its purpose was to pursue academic excellence and to establish guiding principles involving engagement of students, excellence in their achievement, and teamwork among the school board, staff, and community in supporting students. Five Goals were integral to the plan, ranging from excellence in student achievement, teacher recruitment and classroom excellence, to maintaining operational excellence, particularly in tech resources, to analyzing the environmental impact on safety and security, and, finally, obtaining stake holder input about progress or lack thereof. Aligning metrics to the goals helped to determine progress. The 2020 Report about the Strategic Action Plan was given by Hundert Mark, Counselor and Coordinator at the Teacher's Center, who explained that the data being collected will shape the future of the plan and will determine changes in it.

Board Chair Keys Fillauer explained that over two years ago a committee was formed to determine a site location for a new Preschool. They looked at over 20 possible places, including sites with buildings, vacant sites, and public and private land. He mentioned that the state specs for a PreK school are stringent. When they were applied, two sites eventually became possible: the Elm Grove and the Scarboro Park sites. Drillings were done for both sites and conceptual drawings were prepared. Then comparisons were made between the site designs and locations. The Police and Fire Chiefs were consulted as to response times to each place. Input from members of both community members indicated that many in Scarboro welcomed the new school, while those in Elm Grove supported the school but not their site. Board member Bob Eby made a motion, seconded by Paige Marshall, to place the school at the Scarboro Park site. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Looking ahead two years to the possible School Calendar for 2018-19, option B was preferred by the staff with 55.14% endorsing it. This calendar features returning to school on July 23 for staff and July 30 for students. A day off on November 6 for the election is unique; otherwise, the calendar follows a similar plan to others. The Board approved this calendar unanimously.

~Kay Moss, Observer