

WSS/ School Allocations Workgroup 2019-20 School Year

November 8, 2018

Attendees: JoLynn Berge, Linda Sebring, Sara Bonneville, Eric Anderson, Clover Codd, Michael Stone, Erika Ayer, Farah Thaxton, Debbie Nelsen, Misa Garmoe, Jeff Clark, Ted Howard, Pat Sander, Dedy Fauntleroy, Katie Bishop, Michael Tolley, Mia Williams,

Agenda:

1. Prioritize Funding in WSS that is not Contractually Required
2. Options for Assistant Principals
3. Other Options in consideration for 2019-20 gap

1. Discussion of items on list of WSS funding that is not contractually required

- Prioritize list of \$16.5 M to be reduced in WSS model/formulae
- Statement of mission of district, and view through lens of equity
- Guiding vision – this committee’s purpose is to come up with list of recommendations by next (final) meeting at end of November
- Committee focus on priority list; what do we want to look at to cut
 - o Alternately, what on that list do we want to save, leaving \$16.5 M left for cuts
- Options to priorities \$16.5 M, and at end of November have bigger list to be vetted by Superintendent.

Discussions:

- International Baccalaureate \$500,000, plus an additional IB teacher at each of 3 schools.
 - o Budget has reviewed with schools to create a list of what they spend/need to support this program. So far this year, less than \$100K of the \$500,000 set-aside has been requested/allocated.
 - o Some schools have grant support; needs to be a sustainable model, embedded in their curriculum and school culture
 - o Important to have academic cap-stone at some of our more diverse schools
 - o Suggestion that keep \$100,000 for IB, and cut \$400,000
- Other Discussion, not related to list of non-contractually required allocations
 - o (Suggestion) Add a % of cuts to Equity \$... cut more than the \$16.5M needed, and put the difference back into schools in the Equity Dollar allocations.
 - o (Suggestion) Take Equity \$ off the table for cuts, and increase the amount of Equity \$.
 - o Use Equity lens to differentiate between schools
- Class size funding, grades 4-5 from 27:1 back up to 28:1.
 - o Consensus that this would be ok, approximately \$1.9M reduced in WSS
- Eliminate all “Cert. Core” funding in WSS model
 - o Applies to Elementary >450 enrollment, K8 with >500 enroll, and all Middle Schools
 - o Suggestion to keep secondary (MS) and eliminate only Elementary (and K8).

- Consensus on this, approximately \$1.6M reduced in WSS
 - Question about keeping cert core at larger schools so that they can fund full 1.0 counselor.
- Secondary class sizes from 29:1 to 30:1
 - Objection due to issues with Master Schedules
 - Reason behind reduction to 29:1 was to add flexibility with master schedule and reduce # of overages created.
 - What if used an equity lens:
 - 30:1 if FRL count <50%
 - 29:1 if FRL > 50%
 - Or use Equity Tiers (tier 1 or ½ at 29:1, rest at 30:1)
- General Question on previous discussions on grade span adjustments (adjusting 3 smallest K-8's to K-5 grade span) and consolidation of smallest non-traditional schools/programs.
 - No decision yet
 - Michael T thinks that this needs to have a lot of community engagement and will take time; probably not possible to have all in place to make changes for 19-20 school year
 - Per JoLynn, we will talk about this at next meeting.
- House Administrators: there are 6 house administrators, allocated to larger MS and Elementary
 - there are 6 house administrators, allocated to larger MS (>900) and Elementary (>750).
 - Discussion – which is more important, House Administrator or Cert. Core staff?
 - Consensus for reduction, about \$640 K
- Assistant Principals – suggestion to reduce number by half.
 - Reviewed A/P allocation models from FY13, FY14-16, FY17-19
 - Number of A/P's that would have been allocated if all three models were applied to 2018-19 budgeted enrollments.
 - Discussion – lots of “hits” at elementary schools; unacceptable; does not show [that district] value[s] school leader staff; need to prioritize academics and safety in a growth space. A/P's essential for educational leadership; social/emotional piece.
 - If going to cut at Elementary, do not cut A/P's at Title I schools?
 - If group does not want to cut full half of A/P's, need other ideas [to come up to the \$16.5 M].
 - Look at differentiated model, tiering levels
 - Look at cut of ¼ ... 25 or so.
 - Statement from Jeff Clark: recommending no cuts to A/P, but if forced, could only reluctantly support weighted model
 - JoLynn: we will take those ideas, tie back to tiering and safety, tie back to equity
 - Ted Howard: Look at Equity Dollars in same way, so schools equity and safety is considered.
 - Michael Stone: High Poverty LAP funding [from state] adds funding to schools with > 50% poverty. Look at that with the Equity Dollar allocations
 - What would it look like to make no change to Tier 1, and other Tiers take a reduction?
 - What if used model from FY14, 15, and 16?

- Probably not looking at going back to old formula; look at adjusting current formula and applying tiering
- Librarians
 - What does “reduce to half time” mean?
 - Can we look at librarians through an Equity lens?
- Questions/Discussions:
 - Is there any “wobble room” with state K-3 ratio [could we still meet state minimum staffing ratios if we funded K-3 classrooms less than current formula]?
 - Could we go to 0.5 rounding for Elem teachers, instead of rounding to next highest 1.0?
 - How to operationalize?
 - Show scenarios that are more drastic, then different scenarios down to what we can live with.
 - Three school consolidation
 - Will be on the list, but have been told that not enough time to do this for 19-20
 - Is it possible that as scenarios are created, they are posted to sharepoint?

Wrap-up and discussion:

- Approximately \$4.2 M in reductions agreed out of \$20.7 M short-list.
- To reach \$16.5 M, it is possible to only “save” about \$4.5 M from the list of \$20.7 M
- What are this group’s priorities? Where do we want to save specific funding?
- Would it be possible to figure out school-by-school what this would do across the board?

Next meeting:

- November 26