

**Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education  
School Choice Special Committee  
Minutes  
August 12, 2019  
5 p.m.  
Education Building Room 223**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Andrea Bramer, Chair  
Dana Caudill Jones, Vice-Chair  
Lori Goins Clark  
Deanna Kaplan  
Malishai Woodbury

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leah Crowley

**EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Trish Gainey  
Rusty Hall  
Dionne Jenkins  
Sam Mills  
Darrell Walker

**COMMITTEE RECORDER:**

Alexandra Hoskins

I. **Call to Order**

Committee Chair Andrea Bramer called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Deanna Kaplan and second by Ms. Leah Crowley, the committee voted unanimously to amend the agenda to make announcements relevant to the receipt of grant funds.

II. **Discussion Items**

**A. Middle School Capacity & Enrollment**

Mr. Homan Atashbar, Director of Student Assignment, shared a presentation regarding middle school capacity and enrollment. The presentation may be found [here](#).

Mr. Atashbar shared which schools have enrollment numbers that exceed the building capacity. He also provided statistics around the number of students who are residential to each middle school.

Board members asked for clarification around how the data is presented, and Mr. Atashbar provided additional examples, specifically around the schools located in “dual zones.”

Ms. Bramer reminded the Committee that the Board will have to “carve out” a residential zone for Lewisville Middle School as well as correct the zone for Hanes Magnet School.

## **B. Middle School Residential Zone Priorities**

Dr. Kenneth Simington, Interim Superintendent, shared the survey conducted with the Board to determine the priorities for establishing new residential zones. Seven Board members responded to the survey. The criteria considered may be found [here](#).

The results indicate that programming is the most important criteria, followed by transportation. The full results may be found [here](#).

Ms. Bramer indicated that community members will be joining the committee as advisors.

## **III. Announcement**

Ms. Bramer shared that the district has received a grant from the Winston-Salem Foundation to pay for Forsyth Futures to conduct community-wide and district-wide surveys to collect information regarding opinions around school choice.

Mr. Adam Hill, Forsyth Futures, explained the process of establishing priorities to determine questions to include on the surveys. He also indicated that the information collection period would be 6 weeks followed by 4 weeks of data analysis.

Mr. Hill stated that the process would be complete by the end of November.

Ms. Bramer asked about the need for a contract, and Ms. Dionne Jenkins, General Counsel, responded affirmatively.

Mr. Hill clarified that the survey would be disseminated by district communication means, including email and social media. The second round would include asking community organizations that could help recruit additional respondents.

Ms. Bramer shared that the Board will lean on community agencies for support.

Mr. Hill stated that the survey would be multi-lingual.

Ms. Dana Caudill Jones asked for a larger timeline to be included on the agenda to help the committee envision the scope of the work needed.

Ms. Bramer asked to review the OREd data at a future meeting.

Ms. Bramer stated that one of the first questions will be around whether parents want choice or residential only.

Ms. Leah Crowley asked about the scope of the survey and whether it will be middle school only or K-12.

Ms. Jones clarified that magnet schools may still exist in a residential only system. She would like to see an evaluation of the effectiveness of the magnets already in place.

Ms. Bramer wants to see the entire community at the table because they have to buy in.

Ms. Layla Garms, Winston-Salem Foundation, espoused the efforts of Forsyth Futures to collect data from nontraditional sources as well as the Foundation's commitment to equity in education.

Ms. Malishai Woodbury asked about establishing a timeline for the priorities of the committee (OREd, magnet, community conversations, etc.).

Ms. Bramer suggested a meeting with staff and committee members to establish the timeline.

#### IV. **Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Kaplan and second by Ms. Jones, Chair Bramer adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.