

COMMITTEE OF TEN

MEETING MINUTES and notes

March 11th, 2008

Attendance

Committee members

Vic Johnson
Stefanie Carey
Kristin Wurzbarger
Jeannette Neeld
Stacey Gramley
Cheryl Brown
Eric Coulter
Dan Callahan
Neil Truman
Rachel Fowler
Chris Rooth
Richard Robinson

Community / Staff

Laura Staley
John Swank
Karen Jones
Jim Taylor (WRMJ)
Pam Retherford
Mary Hedrick
Connie Hank
Phyllis Bewley
Mark Archer
Marta Tucker
Chris Armnetrou

Dates to Remember

- ❖ **March 17** - Joint board meeting – WHS **7pm** (Board to sign off on COT proposal)
- ❖ **April 14** – Community meeting (“Town hall”) w/ COT – **7pm** WHS Gym
- ❖ **April 15** – Extra Curricular meeting w/ Boosters – **5:30** AJH Library
- ❖ **April 15** - Community meeting (“Town hall”) w/ COT – **7pm** AJH GYM
- ❖ **April 21** – Joint Board meeting AJH **7pm**
- ❖ **May 21** – Final petition deadline, Schedule hearing

Mission Statement

The mission of the Aledo - Westmer Committee of Ten is to develop recommendations to increase the quality of education to our children while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

- ❖ Tour of Westmer Vo-Ag Facility

- ❖ Sub-committee Reports

Facilities

- New handout on updated Westmer Vo-Ag dimensions
- Need to make a proposal of grade placement to proceed with other sub-committees

Extracurricular / Transportation –

- Extracurricular surveys and still being tallied, will be ready for joint board meeting
- Transportation. – a lot done at one meeting
- Proposing 16 routes, budgeted for 11 leased buses, radios for all new ones, possible 3 activity routes (district 379sq. miles), possibility of drivers keeping buses at their houses

Curriculum / Personnel

- Student Survey’s passed out
- Kristin met with Apollo teachers – all but one agreed with 5,6 AJH – 7,8 Joy
- Reasons- continuity, ability to have them at school assemblies at Apollo

Finance / Legal

- Waiting on some items but we have a good budget prepared
- Need a little more info. to set tax rate
- Lawyer is ready to go ahead with petition
- Westmer Board will give info on Life Safety bond

Marketing/ Transition

- Public meetings are a step forward

- ❖ Discussion

- Grade placement – it was decided to go ahead (tentatively) with the proposal that 5,6 grades will be in Aledo Junior High building, and 7,8 in Joy, with the idea that things can be changed later if we need. A basic framework was needed to proceed with all other sub-committee plans.
- A sales tax idea was brought up, as opposed to property tax. The idea didn’t seem to pan out.
- The need to make community aware of the possible consequences of NOT consolidating was brought up
 - For example – Sherrard’s tax rate is 4.72 (Aledo’s next nearest neighbor) much higher than the proposal
- Need for Press release to hand over to media sources
- Board composition decision will wait until we hear from Springfield
 - 3,3, 1 option is in legislation to be decided soon

- ❖ Reviewed Timeline

- Changed some meeting dates
 - “Town hall” meetings changed to April 14, 15 (listed at left)

- ❖ Created Mission statement – see left column

- “Core objectives” will come later

- ❖ Things to Do

- Dan checking with Alan to get ISBE guy to come over and double check budget for errors so we can proceed on setting tax rate
- Kristin setting up meetings with both districts’ faculties to get feedback
 - ◆ Jeannette and Stacey taking care of Westmer