

**Meeting of the:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL/ STOUGHTON AREA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
**Date/Time:** Thursday, July 20, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Public Safety Building) 321 South Fourth Street  
**Members:** Tim Swadley, Matt Bartlett, Sid Boersma, Michael Engelberger, Regina Hirsch, Greg Jenson, Kathleen Tass Johnson, Dennis Kittleson, Lisa Reeves, Thomas Majewski, Pat O'Connor, Scott Truehl, and Mayor Donna Olson  
**Others Present:** Planning Director Scheel, Police Chief Leck, Finance Director LaBorde

### **CALL TO ORDER**

School Board President Dirks called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

LaBorde called the roll and noted that eight alderpersons were present, with Kittleson, Hirsch, Majewski and Truehl being absent and excused.

Introductions were made of all present from the City Council and SASD Board of Education.

#### City Comprehensive Plan

Swadley presented information related to the comprehensive plan and related school district language. There are a couple of corrections that need to be made to this information.

#### City population growth, with discussion on current and future development of Single-Family Housing

Swadley noted that the city had recently amended the comprehensive plan to incorporate language that was proposed by Engelberger to work with the school district. Engelberger suggested that the School Board work together with the townships to have similar joint meetings.

Director Scheel presented an update on the current development taking place in Stoughton as well as the developments with single-family homes. Swadley mentioned the Riverfront Redevelopment area and that the master developer had pulled out of the project for now and that information on the design charrette can be found on the RDA website. In addition a market study was presented by Elven Sted related to their proposed development in the area. Swadley will forward the study to the Board for their information. Dr. Onsager asked if the City had ever considered conducting a neighborhood analysis.

#### Marketing the Stoughton Area Community

Board member Coughlin stated that there seems to be a lack of voice in the community from the young families, a stagnation of population growth, declining enrollment, and the inability to attract young families to Stoughton. Dr. Onsager suggested that a concerted effort be made between the School, City, and Chamber to market what Stoughton has to offer – “small town feel with big city amenities nearby” – that we need to find a way to sell ourselves.

#### Exploration of Open Enrollment-related issues

Dr. Onsager presented information related to a third party that conducted a survey on enrollment. The group directly contacted families who are enrolled in and enrolled out of the district. They results of the survey just were made available so the Board will be further exploring the reports. Discussion took place regarding school vouchers and the effects of actions taken at the State level. Dr. Onsager stated that they have been making budget adjustments in preparation of the loss of funding. They are looking at ways to leverage technology as a tool and continue to meet the needs of the students with a shrinking budget.

#### Joint work between the City & SASD on responding to issues related to a rise in poverty among students

Dr. Onsager noted that there is an increase in homelessness and in those students in the reduced lunch program. There is a group that helps to support the lunch accounts and provide clothes for students. This year a summer lunch program was started and continued reading programs offered during the summer. He suggested that a “community conversation” needs to take place on poverty with the different services that we have. Mayor Olson noted that there are organizations that are currently providing some of these services including HATS. Swadley asked about the SRO program in the schools. Chief Leck explained they are in the third year of the position and the officer is very busy interacting with the children. They address safety issues, incidents in the schools and continue to improve the program. He stated that this is one of the best proactive preventative programs.

#### Discussion/action to recommend the formation of an ad-hoc committee

Dirks suggested the creation of a subgroup which would consist of 3 members from the City and 3 members from the School Board to meet with specific tasks and then report back to the Joint group. The School presented Bubon, Freye, and Coughlin (co-chair). The City presented Jenson, Johnson (co-chair), and Engelberger. The tasks would be to look into marketing the Stoughton area community and to create policies to encourage more development of single-family housing. Motion by Jenson to recommend the creation of a sub Ad-hoc committee consisting of three members of the Council, three members of the School Board and a representative from the Chamber of Commerce to address specific tasks as outlined and report back to the Joint School/Council committee within sixty days, second by Engelberger. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Update on Building Bridges Mental Health Crisis Team

Dr. Onsager stated that the school district will be hiring two mental health experts to assist students and families with trauma and mental health issues. Interviews are being on Monday. The program is possible thanks to Joe Parisi. Kelli the School’s Director of Pupil Services will be overseeing the program.

#### Future agenda items

Dirks noted that the committee should meet at least every three months and that future items for the next meeting be forwarded to either he or Swadley.

Adjourn

Motion by Freye to adjourn the joint meeting of the Committee of the Whole and the SASD Board of Education at 10:04 p.m., second by Boersma. Motion carried unanimously.