

**Bloomfield Hills Schools  
 Community Partnership Committee  
 Meeting Summary from Dec. 12, 2011  
 Submitted by Charlie Fleetham, Facilitator**

**Participants:**

Flo Atto	Mark Bank	Howard Baron
Joan Berndt	Ed Bretzlaff	Kathy Connolly
Stephanie Crider	Liz Fellows	Rob Glass
Ned Greenberg	Karen Hildebrandt	Brandon Kaufman
Tina Kostiuk	Frank Laurinec	Laurie McCarty
Wendy Passer	John Roach	Ellen Tener
Eric Winkelman		

**Welcome/Desired Outcomes:** Superintendent Rob Glass welcomed the partners and thanked them for their dedication to improving the relationship between the community and the District. He read a thank you note from Board President Ingrid Day, expressing her gratitude for the community’s participation in the partnership.

He said that the Strategic Plan has laid out a plan for the partnership and that he was glad to see it taking root. He said that the major goal for the District in 2012 was to resolve the high school issue and he asked the partnership to continue supporting the District in this effort. He said that the District was planning a set of Town Hall meetings in January and February to get community input on the high school issue. These meetings would include presentations on design status, options, and estimated costs. The meetings will be conducted at every school and facilitated by Charlie Fleetham.

Eric Winkelman suggested that the District conduct a survey. He said that a significant segment of the community distrusted the Board and that although; it appeared that the Board had changed its processes (more open and more responsive); he wondered if the community had changed its perceptions of the Board. He said that trust in the Board would be a key factor in any vote on a high school millage. Rob said that District was not convinced that a survey would provide value for the cost. Eric suggested giving a survey project to high school students. Rob said that he would reintroduce the survey idea at an upcoming cabinet meeting.

There was a long discussion on increasing the publicity for the partnership. Some partners felt that the District has not provide enough public acknowledgement of citizen contributions and deliverables. Some folks suggested updating the web site with a list of deliverables that had emerged from the partnership. Another suggestion was writing letters to the editor about the partnership. Rob said he would develop some action items for review by the partnership at an upcoming meeting.

**Proud and Sorry Exercise:** After presenting a progress report on the partnership since the June meeting that include subcommittee accomplishments and suggested 2012 goals, Charlie split the attendees into four sub groups and asked them to discuss what 2011 accomplishments made them proud and what were they sorry that they had not accomplished (see attached presentation). Comments from the exercise are shown below:

**Proud List:**

- A new relationship has been formed.
- Rob Glass has set a new tone for the District . . . listening with judgment.
- The District has stopped a defensive approach and has adopted a collaborative approach.
- We are proud of the Lighthouse Speaker series.
- We are proud of the Finance 101 video.

Board has embraced the community partnership groups and the outcomes of those groups  
The DPP group had an impact on the lease vs. Doyle center renovation process and the board accepted its recommendation  
The conversation has been kept civil and professional both at the meetings and outside the meetings.  
The groups as a whole have started to shift the tone away from immediate distrust to a focus on working together to find solutions.  
Have discovered a way to bring structured, educational programming to the community like the community speaker series.  
We now recognize and accept that the conversation cannot just take place on school properties and with school parents, it must be brought to the larger community.

#### **Sorry List:**

We need more deliverables in 2012. All the action items for the subcommittees have not been accomplished.  
We are moving way too slow.  
Many community members have no idea about the partnership. We need more publicity.  
Wish there was more participation at the meetings.  
We don't yet have an outreach to special community members.

**Planning for 2012:** The table groups then moved to reviewing the 2012 goals. Comments are shown below by subcommittee. The subcommittees will review these comments and settle on their goals at their January/February 2012 meetings.

#### **DPP**

Continue brainstorming to increase revenue and reduce costs  
Continue pushing facilities master plan  
Address big ticket issues, then identify potential cuts and the tolerance that the community will have for these cuts; analysis should address:  
Academic cuts  
State funding cuts  
Fringe benefits  
Prioritization of cuts  
Scenario plan for keeping District from going underwater in the future

#### **Financial Communication**

Continue financial analysis and benchmarking (assess whether Ferndale is best choice for a benchmark)  
Complete Finance 201 "on Fund Balances" and get more videos out ASAP, including High School video  
Develop CPC metrics to measure value received from expenditures (do we get what we want from our expenses?)  
Explain how Plan A / Plan B will help us move to fiscal responsibility (though they are not the solution)

#### **Lighthouse Curriculum**

Complete Plan A / Plan B Visitation Report (suggest different nomenclature for Plan A / Plan B . . . like Bond Passes, Bond fails)  
Explore "Servant Scholarship" strategy with Redford Union School District (no vocal support)

#### **Relationship Outreach**

Continue Lighthouse Speaker Series (Kurt Metzger – 4/17/12)  
Launch modified ESP program (did not discuss)  
Start Great Conversation (including High School topic)

**The Great Conversation:** Two pairs from the Relationship Outreach team reviewed their thoughts on the Great Conversation (Ned Greenberg/Stephanie Crider and Brandon Kaufman/Flo Atto). Their ideas were well received, and the group encouraged the Relationship Outreach team to follow through on its outreach strategy.

**Conclusion:** Rob Glass thanked the partners for their contributions. The next meeting of the full partnership will occur on Tuesday, May 15, 2012.