

# The School District With a Greater Future for All Students

ADOPTED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE 04.19.12

## SCOPE OF WORK:

The Task Force will focus initially on the Pre-K-6 program of the District. However, the District as a whole (PreK-12) must be taken into consideration going forward with attention paid to the development of a Long Range Plan to cover a three (3) to five (5) year time frame.

District Capacity is defined as the overall ability of a school district to achieve one primary goal - to provide all children enrolled in the District schools with a broad array of high-quality and developmentally appropriate educational opportunities that will enable them to become productive citizens in our communities and be prepared to meet the challenges of a 21<sup>st</sup> century democratic society.

Components include:

- A safe and supportive learning environment in which innovation, creativity and forward thinking are fostered
- A program that recruits, retains highly qualified staff members who are evaluated annually as to their success supporting the learning environment and student achievement
- A clear consistent and effective communication between and among students, faculty, staff, parents and community members
- The appropriate allocation and expenditure of District funds, time and other resources to support the educational environment

**1. How might the SBRSD educational program (PK-6) be configured to attract and retain interested and engaged students?**

**2. How might the SBRSD accomplish the above given the capital needs of the District, the changing demographics of the area and the financial impact on each of the five towns in the District?**

A Task Force representative of all the stakeholders will be charged with addressing the above two questions. Using data drawn from the District, the State and other areas as appropriate, the Task Force will propose initially a vision for elementary education (Pre-K -6) in the District, and outline various options for implementing that vision. Individuals both in and out of the District may be called upon for input and/or expertise. In order to deliver education in a dynamic and multidimensional environment, it is essential that a broad view be taken. Preparing students to learn and live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must be paramount.

Issues such as choice, diversity of programs, retention of students, attraction of students, standards, quality, innovation, technology, budget, transportation, and outlying schools must be on the table.

## **TIME LINES**

The Task Force shall report to the School Committee each month at the School Committee's regular meeting. The work of the Task Force will be completed by December 1, 2012 or earlier, if possible.

## **TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

Community Members  
Parents  
Faculty  
Administrators  
School Councils/PTAs'/PTO

The Task Force shall consist of eleven (11) members, one of whom shall be the chair. Task Force members will represent the District as a whole, must be objective (no preconceived agendas), strategic thinkers, passionate about education and willing to work hard. The Task Force must be balanced in terms of geographic representation and skill set.

The Task Force should possess skills/expertise in education, technology, finance, public relations. It is encouraged to draw upon others in the community for assistance/input on a short term basis or on subcommittee(s) to address a specific task.

The School Committee must serve as a navigator so as to retain focus, and a cheerleader to support and encourage the work of the Task Force. It is also responsible for ensuring that the final product of the Task Force is recognized and implemented when appropriate, viable and financially feasible.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A call for District residents to nominate themselves or others for Task Force membership will be distributed widely throughout the District. Anyone in the District will be eligible to nominate another. Elected and appointed officials of local towns will not be eligible to serve on the Task Force, but may be called by the Task Force to assist in some way. Each Town's Selectboard will be asked to submit the names of at least three (3) individuals who will be considered for appointment to the Task Force. The Elementary School Council, PTA and PTO will be asked to submit at least three (3) names, as will the Elementary Faculty and the School Administration. These nominees, along with all the others that are put forward will be considered by the School Committee Subcommittee of Miller, Flynn and McSpirtt. That Subcommittee will work to achieve a balance of broad representation and skill set, and recommend a slate of nominees to the full School Committee for consideration and appointment.

The Subcommittee will recommend a chair of the Task Force to the School Committee for its consideration and appointment. The Chair should be a leader without an agenda, a visionary and one who is well grounded in educational theory and practice.

### **GOING FORWARD**

All Task Force members and individuals who contribute to the work of the group must be free to speak freely without fear of retribution.

Once the Task Force commences work (no later than June 1) it is imperative that a strong communication piece be in place so that the process remains open and transparent. Meeting dates, times and agendas must be posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. It is suggested that a link from the District's Website be established so that all information which pertains to the work of the Task Force is accessible to the residents of the District.

The Task Force will need to maintain momentum so that the tasks are completed and the community does not feel the mission fell into a black hole.

The Task Force will appoint a liaison (perhaps the chair) to the School Committee who will request information from District officials. Other Task Force members and subcommittee members should direct their requests to that individual so that multiple individuals are not making multiple requests of District officials who have regular duties to perform.

04.19.12

## **VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR SBRSD TASK FORCE**

The School Committee will appoint an eleven (11) member Task Force to recommend to the School Committee by December 1, 2012, or earlier actions to respond to the following:

- 1. How might the SBRSD educational program (PK-6) be configured to attract and retain interested and engaged students?**
- 2. How might the SBRSD accomplish the above given the capital needs of the District, the changing demographics of the area and the financial impact on the five towns in the District?**

**Selectboards** of each town are asked to submit three (3) names of individuals to be considered for membership.

**SBRSD Administration** is asked to submit three (3) names of individuals to be considered for membership.

**Elementary Faculty** is asked to submit three (3) names of individuals to be considered for membership.

**Elementary School Council/PTO/PTA each** are asked to submit three (3) names of individuals to be considered for membership

**Citizens of the Five Towns** are invited to submit their own names or recommend others for membership.

The name, contact information and a brief statement of qualifications/interest in the task should be sent to Catherine B. Miller at [cbmiller1941@gmail.com](mailto:cbmiller1941@gmail.com) or PO Box 7, Sheffield, MA 01257-0007 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012.**

**ELECTED AND APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS ARE INELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE TASK FORCE, BUT MAY BE CALLED UPON BY THE TASK FORCE FOR INPUT AND EXPERTISE.**

