

Oyster River Cooperative School Board
Long Range Planning Committee Meeting

Sept 10, 2019

ORHS

7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Lisa Allison, David Taylor, Robert Mohr, Katrin Kasper, Rob McEwan, Giana Gelsey
School Board Representative Present: Denise Day
Guest: Naida Kaen

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Naida Kaen of Mariner Realty in Durham provided an update on real estate sales in the school district. A total of 77 homes sold in 2019 compared with 92 in the comparable period in 2018. She explained that the lower number of sales this year was primarily due to the lack of affordable inventory, and that many families are renting rather than buying. She explained that the movement of older homeowners to the Riverwoods facility opening later this year is already freeing up some inventory and she expects the slump in sales to reverse. She told us that "85% of the people coming to this district are coming for the schools."

We reviewed day 1 enrollment compared to last year's LRPC projection. Overall, we projected 2019 enrollment at 2,176 students, compared with a day 1 actual number of 2,181, a difference of 5 students or less than half of one percent. Elementary enrollment on day 1 was 2 students below projection, 367 actual versus 378 projected at Mast Way and 297 actual versus 287 projected at Moharimet. There were only 99 first grade students in the district on day 1, 11 below our projection of 110. Kindergarten had a total of 118, 12 higher than our projection of 106. The grade progression ratio from K to 1 dropped from 116% following the first year of full day K in 2016, to 114% last year and 108% this year. That's consistent with our expectation. We will use the three year average in this year's model. Middle School enrollment was 666 versus 669 projected.

High School tuition students on day 1 numbered 171, nine fewer than our projection of 180. There were only 38 ninth grade tuition students on day 1, compared with 52 tenth graders. Denise Day suggested that, given the attractiveness of the new Dover High School, we should project about 40 new tuition students per year going forward.

Alyson Mueller of Durham resigned from the LRPC. Two committee members have recommended a replacement and Lisa Allison will contact him personally.

When the October 1 enrollment and birth figures are known, Robert Mohr will calculate new coefficients. Lisa Allison will roll the model forward with the new data.

The next meeting of the committee will be October 23 at 7:00 p.m. If necessary, we could also meet on October 8.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa M. Allison, LRPC chair