

**Forward 67**  
**Community Engagement Session 3 – Student Services**  
**Responses to Questions**

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*Q. What is the funding/reimbursement to encourage our current staff to get certification to make them more versatile?*

A. As an outcome of current negotiations, the Board of Education has agreed to provide tuition reimbursement for staff in coursework that will support the District's goals.

*Q. Do we know/anticipate the growing size of the community and the needs?*

A. Although we cannot predict what, if any, new developments will be built in our attendance area, it is anticipated that the enrollment will be somewhat stable. It appears that the enrollment growth is a result of houses owned by senior citizens sold to families with school age children. The majority of the students who are moving in the District speak English as a second language and we are encouraging teachers to get their ELL endorsement.

*Q. Has the district considered a coaching/differentiation specialist for the gen ed class curriculum?*

A. The administration has considered this position for the future. The more immediate needs are lowering class size which assumes hiring more teachers.

*Q. Are there any other options aside from building on? What do we do if the community does not support us financially?*

A. There are a few options aside from building on that will be reviewed at the next community engagement session on facilities. One option is to renovate existing buildings. I have worked with our architects on several designs to utilize the existing space more efficiently. If the community does not support us financially, the District will have to prioritize needs and allocate funds within a limited budget.

*Q. Can we apply for grants or other funding to be able to increase staffing to meet needs?*

A. We receive Title I federal funds that is based on student enrollment, the free and reduced lunch percentage for each school, and other informative data. Each year I write the grant which funds some of our paraprofessionals (teacher assistants). We do not receive enough funding through this grant to cover the cost of a teacher.  
The only way to decrease class size is to hire additional teachers. Given that most grade levels have high enrollment, priority would be given to primary grades. Without additional revenue, it is more than likely that there will continue to be higher class sizes in many grades.

*Q. How do we increase ELL staff to meet our growing population?*

A. As new teachers are hired, principals seek candidates who have an ELL endorsement. Through strategic planning, an action plan must be developed to address these needs.

*Q. What are proper staffing levels for each student service?*

A. It depends on the needs of the students as determined by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). It would be beneficial for the District to have a full-time psychologist rather than a split position (Student Services Director). Additional speech services are needed at the middle school. An additional day of occupational therapy is needed.

*Q. What is the financial solution to address lack of support services?*

A. In order to increase services, there is a need for more revenue. At the finance community engagement session on February 25, 2020, options will be discussed.

*Q. What building options are available regarding Hynes and Golf? Combine? Why not?*

A. The community engagement session on facilities on January 14th will discuss all options.

*Q. How? Just how? How is money shared between districts in one community?*

A. Money is typically not shared between districts unless there is an intergovernmental agreement. Community members of each district pay taxes to support the district they live in.

*Q. What about pooling resources? Sharing services? Political advocacy/community partners? Teachers union collaboration?*

A. We have an Intergovernmental Agreement with District 219 as part of the CFC initiative. This is a ten-year agreement which has provided the District with technology, curricular resources, and professional development opportunities by content area experts. As part of the agreement, there is a cost share and a cost shift responsibility. I have also been in conversation with the superintendent of Morton Grove District 70 to explore how we might share services.

*Q. The needs are only going to increase – what would be the breaking point? 13% is out of compliance, so what are the ramifications of that?*

A. Golf SD67 trend data (the last 5 years) demonstrates that D67 continues to be below the state average for students with disabilities. This is a very positive step for the district. In fact, District data has decreased, while State data increased. The district is not out of compliance nor does the trend data indicate that it is moving in that direction. The State has not issued its criteria for Results-Driven Accountability/Focused Monitoring nor have they issued the target goals. However, the goal for District 67 is to provide ALL students, with and without IEP's a high-quality education with the supports and services they need to succeed.

*Q. How do we keep quality people if the numbers continue to increase and demands – spread too thin?*

A. We keep quality people because our staff is valued and supported, and we work together to find solutions to lighten the load.

*Q. How are you prioritizing the needs of the district?*

A. The strategic plan guides our decisions as it has specific goals, objectives, and timelines to achieve. The plan runs through June 2020 and I would encourage the Board to engage in a strategic planning process in the near future.

*Q. Enrollment projections?*

A. Enrollment projection were done in 2018 and are projected through 2024. There is a straight forecast and an upper and lower confidence level. This year, it appears we are at the upper confidence level. The remaining years show an increase and decline and then increase.

*Q. Strategic plan for next 5 years?*

A. I recommend that the new superintendent and School Board engage in a strategic planning process in the near future.

*Q. Is there a way to pool together resources from different districts?*

A. It is difficult, however I am in conversations with a neighboring district regarding the potential of sharing services.