

**SMITHTON COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #130**  
Smithton, Illinois 62285  
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, May 12, 2015  
MINUTES

The Strategic Planning Committee meeting of the Board of Education of Smithton Community Consolidated School District #130 was held on May 12, 2015 in the Art Room, 316 South Hickory, Smithton, Illinois 62285.

Sara Sutherland, Secretary of the Strategic Planning Committee, recorded minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on May 12, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Committee Chairman Brian Lester; Board Member Sara Sutherland; Superintendent Dr. Susan Homes; Principal Vicki Norton; Director of Business Heidi Etling; Director of Technology Eric Muckensturm; Teachers Courtney Hammel and Michelle Smith; and community members Eric Benedict, Angie Chamma, Jennifer Davis, Linda Elbe, Neal Trentman, Curt Whitworth, and Jeff Schenewerk.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Lester at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
3. Strategic Planning

Chairman Lester distributed two printed handouts—a discussion guide as well as a PowerPoint presentation with key points for the evening’s discussion.

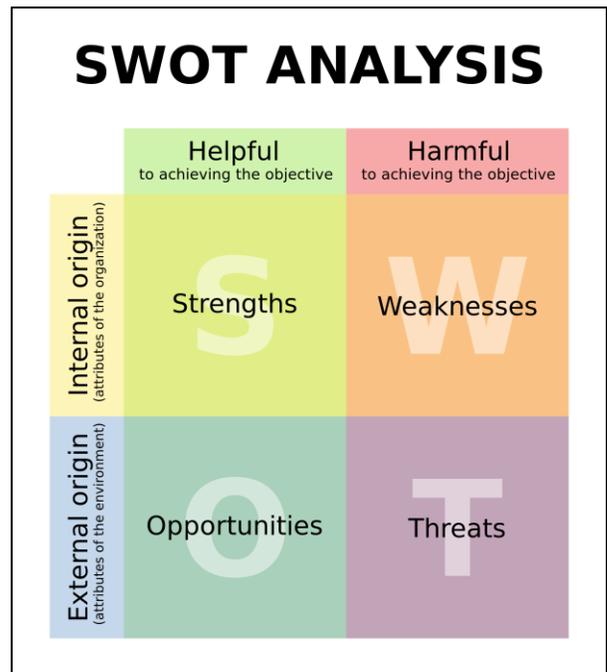
Committee members were asked to introduce themselves and share the reason they choose to volunteer for service on the committee.

Mr. Lester reviewed the key events that have occurred over the past three years related to the school district:

Q3/Q4 2012	Planning & community engagement for school capacity Concerns
April 2013	New school Bond Referendum (failed) and 4 new school board members
Summer 2013	New superintendent
October 2013	New school board member appointed (Brian Lester)
Q1 2014	Strategic planning kick-off for school board
February 2015	Strategic planning committee formed and new school Board member appointed (Ed Farley)
May 2015	Full strategic planning committee initiates work

Mr. Lester asked committee members to share those items they believe represented strategic planning. The following points arose from that discussion:

- Cash flow analysis
- Growth in enrollment/facilities
- Long-range goals
- Financial resources
- Order of importance/prioritization
- Needs vs. wants
- Plan for reaching long-range goals
- Quality of education
- Fiscal responsibility
- Human resources
- Projection of future
- SWOT analysis
- Identify things that can or can't be controlled



Mr. Lester asked the committee to identify their school/district related concerns. The concerns captured included:

- Money/State of Illinois
- Percent of funding that comes from property taxes
- Property taxes
- Declining EAV
- Continuation of technology
- Space
- Extra-curricular activities (possible loss)
- Class size
- Safety of students and safe (portable building)
- Articulation with Freeburg High School District #77

Mr. Lester introduced the following strategic planning concerns that had been previously captured by the Board of Education:

- Illinois Education Funding decreasing
- An approximate 6% enrollment increase in the 2014-2015 school year
- New learning standards, curriculum needs, and continued technology adoption
- Continued increases in education fund expenses including the possible transfer of state pension liability costs to local districts
- Increased statewide focus of long-term education enhancements (Vision 20/20)

Mr. Lester asked the audience for any further input and polled participants to determine the best time for meetings to be held. The majority of participants indicated that a 6:00 p.m. start

time would work. The preference of the group was to avoid Saturday meetings during the summer months. Mr. Lester shared that he anticipated the group would meet 1-2 times per month. He shared with the group that the outcome of their work would be a recommendation to the Board of Education. He further stated that should the outcome include a recommendation for a referendum decision, the committee would not be able to take an active role in persuading the public to approve such a decision. He shared that a community group could take on that role so long as district board members and staff were neutral. District board members and staff could only present facts. A community group would have the ability to encourage approval by the public.

Mr. Lester's handout included a possible timeline for the work of the committee; however, he indicated that the timeline would be covered in greater detail at an upcoming meeting.

The next meeting date and time were announced as Tuesday May 26, at 6:00 p.m. in the Art Room.

4. Chairman Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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President

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Secretary