



Board of School Directors Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Thursday, September 10, 2020

Members present: Nicholas Braccio (virtual), William Brong, Janet Flisak (virtual), Matt Holliday (virtual), Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson (virtual), Donna Scheuren, and Courtney Barbieri.

Others present: Frank Ball, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Nick Hance (Snyder-Hoffman), Christopher Hey, Michael Kelly (KCBA), Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Jim Metzler (KCBA), Brian Pawling, Troy Tressler, and Megan Zweiback.

1. Operations Committee

1.1 Comprehensive Facilities Study Presentation

Mr. Brong called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

Mr. Brong announced that the findings from the district-wide facility study would be reviewed this evening. Mr. Brong reminded everyone that in February the Board had approved the action for the district to conduct a full scale study of all district owned facilities.

Dr. Gallagher reiterated that the presentation was a high level review of the information and introduced Mr. Michael Kelly of KCBA Architect's in Hatfield. Because of the volume of information being presented, Dr. Gallagher encouraged listening, and making notes for a follow-up discussion in October.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Pawling commented that the facilities study began early in the calendar year and the scope of work included site visits to all buildings, reviewing all mechanicals, physical structures of all buildings and providing a report card at the end of review. Mr. Pawling indicated that the results of the report will be used as a tool to assist in prioritizing 10-15 years of building maintenance and improvements. Mr. Pawling noted that the abrupt closing of schools in March did present some challenges, but believes the report to be a comprehensive review of all district properties.

Mr. Kelly of KCBA highlighted the focus of the study indicating that it reviews existing conditions and the current delivery of educational programs. He noted that enrollment projections were utilized to produce a series of long-term upgrades and reconfigurations options. He also noted that goals for the study were to provide analysis and recommendations for facility maintenance and long-term planning. To examine educational environments for optimal student performance, explore scenarios for Full Day Kindergarten and prioritize future improvement initiatives.

Mr. Kelly began the presentation by sharing a slide showing a map of the district and led a discussion on district enrollment trends. He noted that projections show a decrease in student population for the next five years, followed by a continued decrease for five years thereafter. He also indicated that housing sales and projections are anticipated to level off by the year 2023. However taking these items into consideration, the enrollment decrease will not have a substantial impact on building usage. He noted that building usage would be impacted by different types of instruction models. A move from half-day kindergarten to full-day as well as the changing needs and the delivery of special education services.

Mr. Kelly also presented an extensive review of the middle school buildings; Indian Valley and Indian Crest. Specific suggestions for renovation and expansion were presented for each of the middle schools, noting the impact that all students in the district would benefit from, attending one or the other middle schools at some time during their school career.

A review of the high school suggested security enhancements at the main entrance as well as exterior fencing at the cafeteria and library courtyards. A brief discussion also occurred about the possibility of creating a boys' baseball field on the campus of the high school property. Currently, all games are played off-site.

Mr. Kelly praised the Board of School Directors and the administration for their attention and diligence in maintaining district facilities. He said that their proactive approach toward maintenance and prevention has served the community well. He closed his presentation by reminding everyone that this study was meant to serve as a guide for approximately the next ten years of planning. On the subject of a timeline, he noted that any project typically requires one year from bid date to start date.

Mr. Brong suggested that the presentation could be broken down and separated based upon a focused need. He noted that more detailed reporting can also provide more exacting results. Mr. Brong directed Board members to email Mr. Pawling on the items that they would like more information on. Mr. Brong also asked the public to stay tuned to future meetings where there would be additional discussion on the facilities study. He also remained hopeful that in-person meetings could soon occur, allowing the public to ask questions as they arise.

Dr. Gallagher noted that the original timeline to implement Full Day Kindergarten has changed. He said that research and planning is expected to resume in January of 2021.

Mrs. Scheuren asked for additional information on the development of the suggested middle school revisions and Mr. Kelly responded that any renovations would of course be driven by financial discussions first.

Mr. Kwiatkowski said he will be interested to learn more about the priorities of the administration; infrastructure versus mechanical priorities. Dr. Gallagher noted that while the principals had input, it is the responsibility of the administration and Board to make recommendations. Mr. Pawling noted that often a prioritized improvement can be made in conjunction with other projects, making both more fiscally responsible.

Mrs. Flisak praised the presentation and commented that thought and planning should be considered to accommodate virtual learning. Mrs. Flisak also reinforced the implementation of full day kindergarten and reminded everyone that it does not necessarily have to occur in an elementary building.

Mr. Holliday praised the presentation and appreciated the creativity to utilize space. Excited to learn more.

Mr. Brong thanked Mr. Kelly and others for attending the meeting and praised Mr. Ball and the facilities department for keeping the buildings in good condition.

Dr. Gallagher introduced Network Administrator, Mr. Troy Tressler who started the week of the COVID shut down in March and welcomed him to the technology team.

Dr. Gallagher also stated that today was the second day of school and things went well. He said that the students were great and were following the rules of the Health & Safety Plan.

Mr. Brong adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian R. Pawling
Board Secretary/Director of Business Affairs

