



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Wednesday, October 13, 2021

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Members present: Courtney Barbieri, Nick Braccio, Bill Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Tom Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, and Donna Scheuren

Other present: Brandon Bilohlavek, Pat Diehl, Henry Franz, John Franzen, Frank Gallagher, Kevin Godshall, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Brian Pawling and Walt Salvesky

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 Full Day Kindergarten

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting E-P Meeting to order at 6:42 P.M.

Superintendent Gallagher stated that the only item on the E-P agenda was the information being presented on full-day kindergarten. He noted that the district had been working on it for quite some time and asked Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Technology, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly, to proceed with the presentation.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that the work for full-day kindergarten began with the Comprehensive Planning process in 2019. She noted that the team had examined the benefits of a full-day program and would like to implement for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that while full-day kindergarten is not mandatory in the state of Pennsylvania, 84% of districts offer a full-day program and 17 of the 22 school districts, in Montgomery County currently provide full-day kindergarten.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly outlined the research that was done during the exploration process, including site visits, the characteristics of an effective program, enrollment and staffing, facilities and operations, and preliminary costs. She also noted that several themes were reoccurring in the research: full-day kindergarten contributes to school readiness, leads to higher academic achievement, improves student attendance, supports language development, benefits students socially and emotionally and gives kindergarten children more time in a structured learning environment.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also spoke on the important role that play takes on in a full-day kindergarten program and how to intentionally plan instruction within structured play.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Hey reviewed a slide showing kindergarten enrollment from 2019. He stated that work and discussion with the Montgomery County Planning Commission has set an expectation that birth rates are expected to stay relatively steady over the next ten years, resulting in an anticipated enrollment in kindergarten.

Dr. Hey reviewed a slide that showed current kindergarten staffing by school and projections for the 2022-2023 school year if full-day kindergarten is implemented. The result would be an increase in staff and facilities.

Dr. Hey said the cost considerations for new staff and facilities are estimated at \$1M - \$1.5M. Dr. Hey indicated that the approval of a full-day program would come under the budget process and the approval of allocated funds.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about additional costs and Dr. Hey said that the estimated number includes all costs associated with implementation. Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about curriculum needs and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that the changes already added to curriculum, *Foundations*, would support a full-day program.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked how we would educate the community on the new offering and Dr. Gallagher stated that when enrollment begins in February or March there would be communication to the community about availability.

Mr. Holliday noted that he believes full-day kindergarten would be an asset for families. Mr. Brong asked about a timeline for a vote and Dr. Hey reiterated that the approval would come through the budget process.

Mrs. Scheuren and Mr. Braccio both stated that they were pleased to see the program coming to fruition. Mrs. Scheuren stated that the cost was more affordable than she had anticipated. Mrs. Flisak was appreciative of the information.

Mr. Nelson commented that he was honored to be on the Committee and appreciative of the information from teachers and principals and is excited to see it happen.

A member of the public from Upper Salford Township asked how confident does the district feel about being able to add the new staff? Dr. Hey replied that the district feels very confident as elementary teachers are available and that the elementary certification is one of the more common degrees received.

Mr. Kwiatkowski praised the team for their work and adjourned the E-P Meeting at 7:02 P.M.

2. Operations Committee

2.1 Renovation Design Plans for Indian Valley Middle School and Franconia Elementary School

Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Mr. Brong stated that the agenda item this evening has two parts; giving updates on the Franconia Elementary and Indian Valley Middle Schools. He also introduced Mr. Kevin Godshall of GKO Architects.

Mr. Godshall reviewed a slide presentation which reflected the design project at Franconia Elementary School and the goal to create 2 new kindergarten classrooms. He discussed the design which would utilize a faculty room and a music room and the re-purposing of the basement. He also noted that an autistic support room would be reconfigured, and all toilet rooms would get new fixtures and those that could be made ADA accessible would be done so.

Mr. Godshall also indicated that site work performed would add storage sheds along with new paving and relocation of the dumpsters. Mr. Godshall said that a significant amount of work has already been done to the building and a large amount of work has already been completed, i.e. the roof. Mr. Godshall also indicated that while the school is an older building and has a lot of history, it is not a historic renovation that would incur substantial costs. He also stated that a design development submission was presented to the district in early October and mechanical engineers are already working on the project.

Mr. Kwiatkowski inquired about the timeline for the project and Mr. Godshall said that if bidding and supply chains are timely, the project would begin in the Summer of 2022 and continue until the Summer of 2023. He indicated that scheduling and planning would be crucial to the success of the timeline. Mrs. Scheuren expressed concern about bid documents and material delivery in light of current supply chain demands.

A brief discussion occurred about building utilities and Supervisor of Operations, Mr. Ball stated that the HVAC equipment at Franconia Elementary School could accommodate the use of natural gas if and when it becomes available to the property.

The second part of the presentation was focused on Indian Valley Middle School. Mr. Godshall stated that one of the building priorities was to remove the modular unit classrooms and restore the site. The removal of the modular classrooms will allow for a new traffic flow pattern around the building. Other interior improvements proposed to the property include a rebuild to the gym stairs, and improve the gym amphitheater which will move the current locker rooms from the upper level to the lower level. Additional classroom space will be created out of the existing media center and relocating the faculty room. Outdoor renovations include a redirection and extension of the parent drop off lane, sidewalks linking parking areas to visitor entrance, resurface the track, and a new electronic sign. Other exterior proposals include a refacing of the front of the building

Mr. Braccio thanked Mr. Godshall Kevin for the presentation and noted that the walk-through was very informative. Mr. Braccio also noted the efficiency incorporated into the plan. Mr. Holliday reinforced the need for this project.

Mr. Nelson asked about parking lot upgrades and inquired if they are in the 5-year plan, that it may be advisable to perform those upgrades during this project.

Mr. Kwiatkowski expressed his pleasure for the exterior main entrance renovation. Mr. Kwiatkowski also asked about enrollment fluctuations and Dr. Gallagher said this renovation was designed to maintain enrollment.

Mrs. Barbieri and Mr. Keith also agreed on updating the traffic flow and making the parking lot improvements now. Mrs. Scheuren expressed concern about the design of the roof and suggested that a sloped roof be considered as part of the design work.

Mr. Pawling noted that this presentation was to advise the Board of the project and to continue to refine and bring more information forward as the designing process moves forward. Mr. Pawling stated that the next steps could discuss construction management and the possible implementation of GESA (Guaranteed Energy Savings Act) on this project.

Dr. Gallagher announced that this was Mr. Pawling's last meeting with the school district as he is leaving to become the Business Administrator at Radnor Township School District. Dr. Gallagher praised Mr. Pawling for his outstanding performance including his competence during a district cyber-attack and the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Keith said Mr. Pawling exemplified professionalism within his craft and thanked him for all of his work.

Mr. Brong adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 7:53 P.M.

3. Technology Committee

3.1 Disaster Recovery Center

Mr. Braccio called the Technology Committee Meeting to order at 8:01 P.M.

Mr. Braccio cited the recent area weather, noting 54 tornado warnings as just one example of the district need for a Disaster Recovery System.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly announced that the Velocity Fiber Project started last year has been completed.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that the creation of a Disaster Recovery System would work in partnership with our NOC (Network Operations Center) by securing a second location which could pick up and maintain continuity of services in the event of an emergency. She explained that the two centers would work together to preserve data and would mirror each other in content and operation.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that the creation of the Disaster Recovery System is a next layered approach, focusing on the physical components of our structural hardware.

Mr. Pawling added that the cost for the creation of the system would be permissible use of ESSER funds, as it relates directly to student learning. He also noted that we have until 2024 to utilize the funds and this project would be part of the over all plan to substantiate technology across the district. Estimated costs are approximately \$385K.

Mr. Nelson inquired about the actual time of recovery in the event of an emergency. Supervisor of Technology Services, Mr. Salvesky, said the recovery would be immediate because the system would mirror all data contained within. Mr. Kwiatkowski the creation of this system is a smart move. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that the proposed timeline would begin in December with installation and operation early next year.

Mr. Braccio complemented Dr. Kennedy-Reilly on her research of the proposed project. Mr. Holliday asked about where the physical location of the center and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that it is yet to be decided.

Mrs. Scheuren asked about needed personnel and Mr. Salvesky responded that the project would be installed alongside our staff and maintained in-house. Mrs. Scheuren also mentioned the possibility of using technology grants to cover costs associated with the project.

The Committee agreed to move forward for Board action on October 28th.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also announced that a previously submitted application for T-Mobile hot spots had been approved, and the district was awarded \$75K in an e-rate grant.

Mr. Braccio adjourned the Technology Committee Meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian R. Pawling
Board Secretary