

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 11, 2013
Freeport High School - Cafeteria
Meeting Minutes

(NOTE: These Minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Directors. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the September 25, 2013 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathryn Brown, Candace Decsipkes, Nelson Larkins, Naomi Ledbetter, John Morang, Peter Murray, Beth Parker, Michelle Ritcheson, Valeria Steverlynck, Karin VanNostrand

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Ricker

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Good News and Recognition: Superintendent Welsh reported a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony was held this afternoon in Freeport and she received many comments from attendees about our students' respectful behavior.

5. WORKSHOP:

- A. Freeport High School Renovation – Catherine Breer and John Simoneau, members of the Freeport High School Renovation Advisory Committee reviewed the results of the telephone survey conducted by Triton Polling and Research of registered voters, in particular, voters who cast ballots in the June 2013 school budget and FHS Renovation Bond referendum. The survey was conducted to gain a better understanding of why the referendum failed. The results indicated that voters primarily rejected the renovation plan because of concerns with the cost. Many people surveyed thought that separating the ballot questions for academics and athletic improvements would help gain support for at least a portion of the project.

By using the information from the survey, the Advisory Committee came up with options to consider for changing the Concept Design Plan in way of scope reduction. Estimated cost reductions were provided by PDT Architects and various options were considered.

Recommended Scope Change. The Art/STEM relocation as originally proposed provided the opportunity for the STEM program to be in close proximity to the science wing, allowing for shared resources and programming, as well as easy outdoor access for Art classes and transportation of STEM projects. However, relocating Art/STEM to the library provides a significant cost savings to the project. The Committee also recognizes the necessity of repairing the athletic fields, given the unsafe and often unplayable conditions and therefore recommends the following:

- **Base Project - Academic Renovations and Field Repairs:** Renovate the existing high school as amended to relocate Art/STEM to the cafeteria instead of to the library,

construct the addition as originally proposed, and repair the athletic fields. Base Project (PDT #1): Academic Renovations and Field Repairs: \$14,638,009

The Committee further maintains its commitment to providing a modern high school facility, including a synthetic turf field and a track. Synthetic turf provides the most efficient use of space and is the best long-term investment in the field. A track is a standard component for a high school of our size and benefits curriculum and co-curricular activities. It is recommended that upgrading the athletic facilities be included as a second ballot option:

- ***Bond Upgrade - Track and Synthetic Turf:*** Increase the bond to support construction of a synthetic turf field and track as well as inclusion of a new softball field at the current field hockey field location. This option is the original scope of athletic improvements. Bond Upgrade (PDT #2): Track and Synthetic Turf: \$1,718,891

The Advisory Committee also recommends presenting the revised project to the voters on a November, 2013 referendum.

- B. Goal Setting Linked to Board Self-Evaluation - The Board reviewed the results of the self-evaluation. The overall rating of 78% reflects an effective Board who just completed a successful, yet challenging year. The seven dimensions on the evaluation were contextual 75%, educational 78%, finance 80%, interpersonal 86%, analytical 75%, political 75% and strategic 78%. Board members discussed possible goals as a result of the survey.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (1) To adjourn at 9:12 p.m. (Parker – Murray) (10 – 0).



Shannon L. Welsh, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools