



Date: February 23, 2023

Purpose: Community Project Review Committee CPRC 2.0 – Meeting 7

Welcome: Carol Crutchfield

Beaufort County School District Attendees:

Committee Members Attendees: Edmond Burnes, Joe Lee, Linda Moyd Hills, Teri Pohorsky, Anna Pepper Vaux Hewett, Joan Heyward, Kira Swiger, Laura Jacobi, Edward Schottland,

Online (Zoom): Michael Swiecicki, Janie Ephland, William Pierro, Jenifer Fielding

Special Guest: Riverview Charter School – Elizabeth O’Brien – Operations Manager and Robert Bechtold – Director

Meeting Notes:

The following documents were on a PowerPoint for the Committee to review:

Agenda – Meeting 7

1. Introductions of Members
2. CPRC 2.0 Scope of Work
3. Riverview Charter Gym
4. Parking Lots and Driveways
5. Additional Athletic needs
6. Stadium Expansions
7. Furniture
8. Electric Vehicle Charging stations
9. Review Calendar

2. Scope of Work

Operations: April 4, 2023, is our target date to present our recommendations to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will then take it to the Board for review. Kitchen improvements have been moved to our next meeting.

3. Riverview Charter Gym

The Riverview Charter School gym was part of the original \$629M project budget reported by the CPRC to the Board for the 2019 referendum. The Board agreed that the Riverview Charter School gym project would be considered as part of the next referendum package.

Original Scope of Work:

- Regulation Size middle school gymnasium including bleachers, score board and locker rooms with toilets (no showers)
- Enclosed corridor between gym additional and middle school building to provide a central entrance for arts and athletics events.
- Divide the current gym into a performing arts area with fixed seating on the existing stage end and music/choral/band area on the other end
- Add approx. 15 new parking spaces near the gym and performing arts area

CM Questions: Where is this school located?

Robert Bechtold – Director: Thank you for having us. Were in Port Royal on 81 Savannah Hwy.

Operations: Are you familiar with the Shell Point area. They're in the old Shell Point Elementary building.

Robert Bechtold – Director: The gym concept was in the beginning of 2015. I just want to start with who we are and our mission.

Riverview Charter School Mission Statement

“Riverview’s mission is to create a small, diverse learning community that *actively* engages students in meaningful and *innovative* learning experiences. Emphasizing “learning by doing”, family and community *involvement*, and engaged citizenship, Riverview is committed to nurturing the whole child and preparing each student for a global society.”

Riverview Charter School Who are we?

Grades K – 8th
20 students/homeroom
4 Homerooms/Grade

Maximum Enrollment
720 Students

Governed by a Board of Directors: Composed of Parents & Community Members

Robert Bechtold – Director: “After January 1, we don’t bring on any more students. We run each grade level with 4 homerooms. Riverview Charter School maintains its own Board of Directors and maintains a relationship with Beaufort County School District Board.”

**Riverview Charter School
Who are we?**

Riverview is Beaufort County’s first & only **locally sponsored** Public Charter School

We are a school of choice for all Beaufort County residents, and **ONLY for Beaufort County residents**

Robert Bechtold – Director: “We was charter back in 2009 and was renewed our charter in 2019 for another 10 years. We are school of choice, with students from Hilton Head to St. Helena. We conduct a lottery every year, that’s how we fill our Kindergarten and the rest of our seats.

Relationship to BCSD

~ **ACCOUNTABILITY** ~

Charter = Contract

SC Standard Course of Study

SC Standardized Testing

Health, Safety, Civil and Disability Rights

Desegregation Agreement with OCR

Annual Independent Audit

Non-Profit / Freedom of Information Act

Annual Report to SCDE & BCSD

Relationship to BCSD

~ **Autonomy** ~

Curriculum & Instruction

Integrated Studies

Spanish, French, Visual Art, Creative Art, Music/Band,

Movement/Dance, Technology, PE, Athletics

Before & After School Care (Tidewatch)

Student Code of Conduct

Employment Policies

Robert Bechtold – Director: So, we have a standardized curriculum inside the school. Our teachers are responsible for the development of their own curriculum. To make sure we are reaching those State standards, and our scores as well as good.

CM Question: Do they have their sports, like in middle school 7 and 8 grade?

Robert Bechtold – Director: We do.

~K – 8 Gym~

- Current space designed for K-5
 - Maximum capacity of current gym
 - Does not allow for school wide assemblies or choral/band/play performances
 - Does not allow for home athletic events / practice
 - Riverview has to contract use of BCSD and other facilities
 - No locker room to support student athletes
-

Operations statement: Riverview is a District Charter school. So, they are under Beaufort County School District. Bridges Charter school is a State Charter School, and they are under the State. Beaufort County School District has no impact on them at all.

~Athletic Fields~

- Riverview has grown athletic offerings to include:
 - Baseball, softball, soccer, golf, sporting clays, basketball, cross country, volleyball

- No practice/home game fields for basketball, softball, or soccer
 - Insufficient lighting
-

CM Question: I know you have a lottery system and I know that siblings of attending students have the option to go to this school. What does your general population remain basically the same, no matter what?

Robert Bechtold – Director: It does not, but our priority seats does get taken up. For instance, were in the middle of a lottery now. We may have 20 or 30 Kindergarten seats available but those are taken by the siblings of our students. We can except from 20 to 50 siblings a year.

CM Question: So, your general population probably doesn't change within maybe 50 from year to year. Is that fair?

Robert Bechtold – Director: I would say a little higher than that. We have look to fill 50 to 70 seats every year.

CM Question: The size of the gym and whatever renovations are needed. Is that based on the population going on around the school, like the new neighborhoods.

Operations Statement: So, their charter outlines how many students they can have.

CM Question: Yes, so in this new build you would know how many students to accommodate

Robert Bechtold – Director: 720 is our max

4. Parking Lots and Driveways

- District hired Applied Technology & Management and CHA Consulting to conduct a stormwater and roadway audits / evaluations for 36 school sites during summer of 2013
- Stormwater assessment included: existing conditions of ponds, drop structures, ditches, weirs, rip-rap, rain gardens, bio-retention basins, outfall and inlet structures
- Roadway evaluation included existing condition of roadways, parking areas, and pathways over 6' wide
- Very little of this work has been completed

Operations Statement: I have asked our Project Managers to send me examples of parking lots that need an improvement.

- **HHIECC:** bus sidewalk needs to be extended 100 linear ft.
- **BLHS:** rear athletic parking lot needs to be paved
- **WMBS:** parking in main lot is cracking potential need for additional lot near cafeteria and art wing – far right area. These examples at WBM show stormwater drainage issues causing cracking on the sidewalk as well.
- These examples at Broad River and Shaklin are indicative of many school’s sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots
- **BRES needs:**
 - Additional parking spots as lot is full most of the time during the day. During events people have to park along the road
 - Corrections to the grading at the front drop off as it floods when it rains
- **JSES** needs resurfacing and striping and ‘new curbs. It could use a better more defined entrance especially for foot traffic
- **JJDECC** needs an overhaul of their staff parking lot and the us loop
- **Mc Riley:** needs some additional parking. Town of Bluffton is doing some stormwater work in the back lot which might lose a few spaces.
 - The road between the ES and ECC “floods like crazy” during rain events
- **Battery Creek High School:** needs a new parking lot
- **Beaufort Elementary:** could use fresh pavement in the front lot and the side lot
- **Beaufort Middle:** large parking lot could use some stormwater improvements as well as repaving due to damage of the large oak trees. (medium)
- **Mossy Oaks:** parking lot, drive, and sidewalks

CM Question: If money gets tight at the end once we start talking about money and priorities. How much we are asking for the Referendum? Would we be able to go back through this presentation and pick what sidewalks and parking lots that need to be done, especially for safety purposes?

Operations Responded: Were going to give you a lump sum cost estimation of everything. Were going to get to the total amount in a few minutes.

- Wilborn Rd – to Hilton Head Middle School
 - Parking lot expansion at HHIMS front visitor area
- Road and parking at HHHS would be part of the High School Rebuild project

Operations Statement: St. Helena is one where you can make a massive difference of that school just by redoing the parking lot. Its hard to tell where the entrance is located, the bus loop is not connected. It could be a big project, but it would make a big impact on the school.

- Riverview Charter: needs additional parking for staff and visitors at the front, and expansion of teacher lot

5. Additional Athletics

Middle School Athletic Improvements

- Turf fields for football
- Lights on football and baseball / softball fields
- Improvements to baseball / softball fields and dugouts

High School Athletic Improvements

- Press Box at Beaufort HS and May River HS
- Weight room at Bluffton High

CM Statement: Since no lights, students must leave early. My child had to leave early today, to go and play in Charleston, SC.

- HE McCracken
 - Bathrooms and ticketing booth at football
 - Baseball / softball practice infield
- Whale Branch MS
 - Baseball / softball complete grading, irrigation, root removal, and sod
- Riverview
 - New Baseball / softball field with lights, fencing and dugouts
 - Soccer / multipurpose field with lights and irrigation
- Hilton Head MS
 - Multipurpose field with bleacher pads

6. Stadium Expansions

Many of the stadiums in Beaufort County do not currently meet the seat count requirement to hold 1st and 2nd round athletic playoff contests. Only Battery Creek High School and Whale Branch Early College High School have the capacity to hold 3rd round and semi-final contest for their classifications. Current stadium capacities with their required capacities based on their current classification by the South Carolina High School league are below.

| <u>School</u> | <u>Stadium Capacity</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>1st & 2nd Requirement</u> | <u>3rd & Semi Requirement</u> |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Battery Creek High School | 5,000 | 3A | 3,000 | 4,500 |
| Beaufort High School | 2,500 | 3A | 3,000 | 4,500 |
| Bluffton High School | 3,500 | 4A | 4,000 | 5,000 |
| Hilton Head High School | 4,000 | 4A | 4,000 | 5,000 |
| May River High School | 3,000 | 4A | 4,000 | 5,000 |
| Whale Branch Early College High School | 4,000 | 1A | 1,000 | 1,500 |

CM Statement: A few slides back you talked about Press Box. I think Hilton Head Press Box was on this Referendum, but I think it had some code issues. Do you anticipate the same issue with the other Press Boxes?

Operations: So, with Hilton Head they had some electric work. You can't do any other improvements on any existing Press Boxes, because once you do, they will fall under the new code. Which will include handicap access to be installed. Here in the low country our Press Boxes are build up and unlike the Upstate they can build they're in their hole. We can take down our large Press Box and add an elevator to make a modification to it.

7. Furniture

Functional Flexibility is a concept in a company where employees can work in different functions or can be deployed purposely to various functions with different roles and responsibilities. Employees are multi-skilled to perform a variety of tasks.

This concept can apply to furniture as well – adaptive to various functions in a classroom to accommodate different roles and responsibilities of learning environments.

8. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:

- Level 2 charging stations for employees at the school district. There are more common and operate on 240v to 208v single phase power. These units can put around 30 miles per hour of charge on a car. The units do take a dedicated breaker per unit. Most companies do Level 2 for employee/workplace charging.
- Level 3 chargers take 480v three phase power and are considered high speed charging but also come with a much higher installation price.
- Dominion SC does not have incentives to help offset costs for installing charging stations. (we asked!!)

Electric School buses can be charged on Level 2 or Level 3 chargers

9. CPRC 2.0 Calendar

Meeting 8 will be on March 6, 2023. We will report to the Board/Superintendent on progress of work on March 7, 2023.