

Central Intermediate School Committee

Recommendation to the
Wadsworth City School
District Board of Education

November, 2017

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Committee Membership

Membership on the Central Intermediate School Committee was open to anyone who was willing to join. Efforts were made by district personnel to disseminate information to the community at large through the following mediums: email, the district website, Wadsworth Community Radio, Facebook, Twitter, and board of education meetings shown on WCTV.

The following are members of the Central Intermediate School Committee:

Adrienne Krauss	Joanne Gahan	Patti Back
Amy Shank	Joe Mendel	Rebecca Tetlow
Andrew Hill	Joseph Magnacca	Rusty Kuse
Anthony Day	Julie Batey	Shirley Casey
Barb Ott	Kyle Obendorf	Stephen Gill
Chris King	Laura Maslyk	Sue Heideman
Dan Dietz	Mark Casalnova	Tom Stugmyer
Daniel Slife	Michael Gahan	Sandy Solaro
Douglas Beeman	Michelle Boni	Tony Solaro
Dr. Caesar Carrino	Mike Deiwert	Michael Wagar
Eric Jackson	Mike Foore	Zachary Ockunzzi
Felicity Wilson	Mike Madachik	
Greg Stoner		
James Lawrence		

Purpose of the Committee

The Wadsworth City School District [Strategic Plan 2016-2020](#) outlined the creation of the Central Intermediate School Committee. The committee was charged with the following:

GOALS	ACTION STEPS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
1. Create a plan for the future of Central Intermediate School	1. (A) Form a committee to explore options as they relate to the future of the Central Intermediate School building	1. (A) Superintendent and Board of Education	1. (A) September 2016
	1. (B) Evaluate the physical building structure, required needs, timeline of the needs and alternative solutions	1. (B) Central Intermediate School Committee and outside professionals (as required)	1. (B) September 2016 through December 2017
	1. (C) Make recommendation(s) to the Board of Education on how to proceed with Central Intermediate School	1. (C) Central Intermediate School Committee	1. (C) No later than June 2018
	1. (D) Board of Education and community discussion on committee's recommendation	1. (D) Board of Education	1. (D) July 2018 to a date determined by the Board of Education
	1. (E) Board of Education decision and creation of plan and timeline for the implementation of the plan	1. (E) Board of Education	1. (E) No later than June 2019

Executive Summary

The committee met four (4) times, spanning from November of 2016 through October of 2017 (see the “Supporting Documentation” section below for an overview of each meeting). After a review of the 2008 Central Intermediate School Facility Assessment report, completed by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission, and a tour of the facility, the committee decided the first step would be to have an updated facility assessment completed. Schorr Architects, Inc. was selected to complete the facility assessment, and the committee was provided with the new report in May. The report detailed a total cost of over \$21,500,000.00 to renovate the existing building. The committee was informed that it would cost, at minimum, an estimated \$24,000,000.00 to build a new facility (exact numbers may be higher depending on the design selected, extra options, etc.).

In addition, it was shared with the committee that the district segmented their original building project in 2008 with the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission (now called the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission). Segmenting the project means that the district may be able to leverage state funding if it chooses to do something with Central Intermediate School. The district is locked in with the state paying thirty-seven percent (37%) of the project, provided the community approves funding for the project and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission agrees with the plans of the district. There is a strong belief, based upon the 2017 facility assessment report, that the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission would not fund the renovation of Central Intermediate School due to the cost to renovate versus building new. (The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission has thresholds they adhere to when deciding if the funds can be used for renovation; it is believed the renovations necessary for Central Intermediate School exceed the said thresholds. This would have to be confirmed by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission once the district actively engaged them in the process.)

With this information in mind, and after a discussion on the grade 5/6 model of education, the committee quickly came to a recommendation on how to proceed with the future education of our students in mind. While the finances involved made the recommendations that follow easier, the committee struggled with how to proceed with the existing Central Intermediate School building. The building has a community significance shared by few structures in the City of Wadsworth and a location in downtown Wadsworth that is key to revitalization efforts that the City of Wadsworth and other organizations are actively engaged in. In addition, the Wadsworth City Schools Performing Arts Foundation has invested millions of private dollars into the renovation and upkeep of OJ Work Auditorium.

What follows is the recommendation of the committee on how to proceed with the current Central Intermediate School building and the supporting documentation that was reviewed by the committee as they formulated the said recommendation.

It is important to note that the committee understands that this recommendation is not binding on the board of education. Rather, it is understood that the board of education will decide how to proceed with this recommendation in a process they will establish at a future date, according to the district’s strategic plan.

Recommendation

After careful review of the current state of the Central Intermediate School building, the estimated cost to renovate as compared to build new, the ability to leverage partial state funding for a new facility as opposed to what is believed to be exclusively local funding for renovations, and discussion on what type of education best benefits fifth and sixth grade students, the committee recommends the following:

- A new school should be built instead of investing over \$21,500,000 in renovations;
- The new school should be a building that houses grades 5-6;
- The new school should be built on a different, yet to be determined site; and
- In accordance with the provisions outlined in Ohio Revised Code pertaining to the disposal of real property by public school districts, the board of education should identify a plan that preserves the current building, in some capacity, with a priority on the preservation of the OJ Work Auditorium, as a community landmark for the City of Wadsworth while permanently relieving the board of education of the costs and liability associated with the building.

The committee has discussed that the board of education should consider doing the following if they choose to move forward with this recommendation:

- Identify a location for the new school;
- Identify a potential partner(s) to make the preservation of the current building, in some capacity, with a priority on the preservation of OJ Work Auditorium, occur;
- Determine a timeline for construction that will involve asking the community for financial support for the project; and
- Establish a process that involves large-scale community feedback on the recommendation of this committee prior to a final decision being made (e.g. survey, public forums).

Supporting Documentation

A. November 29, 2016 Meeting

[Committee Meeting Follow-up](#)

[Committee Presentation](#)

[CIS Analysis - FY 2016](#)

[CIS Electric Analysis - FY 2016](#)

[Expenses for 5+ Years \(Estimated\)](#)

[Rental Funds - O.J. Work Auditorium \(2014 & 2015\)](#)

[Wadsworth Central Intermediate Assessment \(referenced in follow-up document\)](#)

[2008 Report \(Part 1\)](#)

[2008 Report \(Part 2\)](#)

[2008 Report \(Part 3\)](#)

B. May 23, 2017 Meeting

[Meeting Follow-Up](#)

[2017 Report](#)

[2017 Financial Report](#)

[Joe Magnacca Options Document](#)

C. September 20, 2017 Meeting

[Meeting Follow-Up](#)

D. October 16, 2017 Meeting

[Meeting Follow-Up](#)