

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Building Committee Workshop Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2014

7:00 PM

Administration Board Room

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order - A workshop meeting of the Lehigh Area School Board was held in the Administration Building, Conference Room A, on the above date and called to order at 7 p.m.

Roll Call -

	Present	Absent
Mr. Rocky Ahner, Member	X	☐
Mr. William J. Hill, Jr., Member	X	☐
Mr. Stephen L. Holland, Member	X	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, Vice-President	☐	X
Mr. Larry Stern, Member	X	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Treasurer	X	☐
Mr. Thomas Zimmerman, Member	☐	X
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, President	X	☐
Mr. Michael Malay Jr., Business Manager	☐	X
Ms. Tina Holmes, Asst. Business Mgr.	X	☐
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	☐
Attorney William Schwab, Solicitor	X	☐
Ms. Bonnie Cortese, Recording Board Secretary	X	☐

Presentation on building proposals (including proposed costs).

EI Associations (Mark Barnhardt, Architect, and Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent)

- *PowerPoint introducing a possible elementary center – discussion only*
- *Center divided into two sections: K-2 / Primary and 3-5 Elementary*
- *Grades divided into pods*
- *Core facilities would be full-sized and able to be shared*
- *Cost approximately \$25 – 35M vs. renovation of four buildings at \$25- 30M*
- *Cap size of classes at 22 (K-2) and 25 (3-5)*

- *Eight less teachers would be needed which would take place through retirements, etc.*
- *Could realize at least \$800,000 in savings which does not include operational savings*
- *PFM Handout – financial impact*
- *PlanCon submitted status quo*
- *PDE could be petitioned for permission to revise our PlanCon submission to reflect the elementary center – no guarantee*
- *Handout regarding curriculum*

Sue Howland and Aaron Sebelin (Elementary Principals)

- *Pros/Cons to Elementary Center*
- *Center would provide:*
 - *Curriculum/Professional Development opportunities*
 - *District services in one place: Special Ed., Guidance Counselors, Gifted, ESL, Speech, OT, PT, Special Subjects, RTII, Title I, extra-curricular activities*
 - *Safety: Separate bus – parent pick-up/drop off areas; one secure, monitored entrance; emergency response time; secure locations for evacuations*
 - *Administration: Principal on site; consistent instructional leadership; one positive behavioral support program*

Jonathan Cleaver (Superintendent)

- *Meeting and speaking with PTO's / Parents – Discussed elementary center*

Board Discussion

- **William Hill –**
 - *Dumbfounded – quite a turn-around from our other plans*
 - *What happens to our other properties?*
 - *Needs to be sent out to the public.*
- **Larry Stern –**
 - *I initially asked about an elementary center.*
 - *This is the time to see the best way to go. We are not at a point of no return.*
- **Jonathan Cleaver –**
 - *This decision will make a big impact on parents of children K-5. My interest is in the children along with being fiscally responsible. The community feels that grade 5 should be in the elementary level.*
- **Gloria Bowman –**
 - *Mr. Cleaver is trying to get public opinion.*
- **William Hill –**
 - *I want to propose several considerations:*
 1. *Have a project bid reserve for not less than 5% to cover work order changes.*
 2. *Have 10% of final payment held until satisfied.*
 3. *Communication between all parties regarding work changes.*
 4. *Maintenance and architect meet constantly.*
 5. *Paperwork is imperative / authorization / documentation.*
- **Mark Barnhardt –**
 - *The 5% for work changes is included in the soft costs.*

- **Stephen Holland –**
 - Requested that the board visit an existing elementary center built by EI

Public Comment (limited to three (3) minutes as per board policy).

- **Martha Cox (Elementary Teacher) – Elementary Center**
 - In favor of elementary center
 - Would equalize class sizes
 - Allow collaboration of teachers
 - Allow sharing of resources
 - In favor of Gr. 5 returned to elementary level
 - Likes the levels with the center and the grade pods
- **Laura Moyer (Parent/alumni) – Elementary Center**
 - Concerns regarding class size. Children in EP with small class size.
 - No matter decision is made it will be costly. Do what is best for the kids.
 - Need more discussion
 - Safety is a concern – too big is not good
- **Angela Harris (Parent) – Elementary Center/ Safety/ Abandoned Bldgs/ Job Security**
 - Do what is best for kids
 - Elementary Center vs. old buildings
 - Need more information more quickly.
- **Jennifer Peiffer (PTO Parent) – Building Questions**
 - How will people be notified regarding meetings and their importance?
Gloria Bowman answered: Times News / Website/ Posted at buildings
 - Is there a deadline on decisions?
Jonathan Cleaver answered: No deadlines except for the grant we will receive for EP and MA. We need to make decisions and use these funds.
- **Frank Tamburri (Taxpayer) – Statement on Construction**
 - The pod system is not a bad profile.
 - With new construction, the 5% reserve would probably work. Renovation work would need more like a 25% override.
 - How much have we spent on architect's fees that we are willing to throw away?
 - Do we already own land to build?
 - Local tax meetings with David Bradley. Making email lists.
- **Stacey Duerst (Parent) –Elementary Center**
 - When are you going to stop playing around and make some decisions?
 - I am 100% for an elementary center.
 - I want our kids to have an environment cool in warm weather and warm in cold weather.
- **David Bradley (Taxpayer) –Research on District financial Fact of PlanCon**
 - Checking with other districts.
 - Last five failures with EI
 - Financial data shuffle.
 - Return of investment calculations
 - Traffic Study
 - Smart Dollar Plan

- **Heather McClure (EP Parent) - Elementary Center**
 - *In favor of elementary center.*
 - *Can we use the buildings we have & renovate them to fit the concept?*
Jonathan Cleaver answered: *The Middle School is not built to fit elementary needs, and Shull-David is not really big enough for a Middle School.*

Board Comments -

- **Gloria Bowman -**
 - *We will need better communication with the public.*
- **Larry Stern -**
 - *Can we use AlertNow?*
Jonathan Cleaver answered:
 - *We don't use this for these types of messages.*
 - *We can make sure parents supply us with updated email accounts.*
 - *Visit PTO meetings to make sure people realize what is going on.*
 - *Will continue to research.*
- **William Hill -**
 - *If we decide on the elementary center, what do we do with the existing buildings in the meantime? Do we use the fund balance for maintenance?*
 - *We should have town meetings to notify people.*
- **Andrew Yenser -**
 - *If we request in a change with PlanCon, is it reimbursable?*
Mark Barnhardt answered: *An elementary center was in the original study.*
- **Gloria Bowman -**
 - *Further investigation from the Superintendent.*
 - *Meetings scheduled: Building & Grounds - 1/14/2014*
Regular Meeting 1/27/2014 - Executive Session at 5:45 p.m.

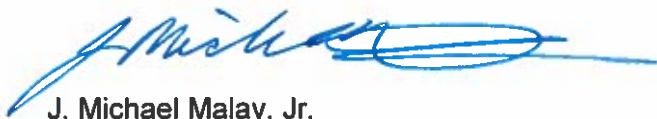
Adjournment -

Next regular scheduled meeting is Monday, January 27, 2014 at the Administration Building.

MOTION by _____, SECONDED by _____ to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - _____ ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - _____ Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted


J. Michael Malay, Jr.
Board Secretary

(Minutes of January 13, 2014 include Pages 1 through 4)