



MINUTES
Facilities Committee Meeting
District Office Board Room
August 3, 2022

Attending for the Administration: Superintendent Dr. Akil Ross, Executive Director of Operations Dave Weissman. Attending for the Board: Facilities Committee Chair Ken Loveless, Trustee Nikki Gardner, Trustee Cathy Huddle (virtually).

Chairman Loveless called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and read the FOIA compliance certification. Mrs. Huddle made a motion to approve the agenda. Item 5b. IHS East Wing additions cost analysis was removed due to the absence of the architects from LSP3 to report on the IHS renovation. A discussion about the upcoming potential bond referendum question coming to the board was substituted. Also, there was a correction on the agenda stating the April 4th Meeting Minutes should be May 4th Meeting Minutes. Loveless seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Huddle made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2022 meeting. Loveless seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ross mentioned that SLED and the FBI had walked through a few of our schools with our safety teams. Safety and security additions were discussed, including a door sensor request that will be coming to the board for approval. Dr. Ross stated that with everything they have learned, they surmised that we need backup systems, such as door sensors, screeners for weapons detection in vestibules (Open Gate), etc. These upgrades are included in the \$5M+ request in the potential bond referendum. The needs of the District Office facility were replaced on the question with this need to include other security upgrades. Loveless asked if we had a central control ability for our air, fire, & smoke detectors. Weissman reported that we have a central system for air, but that many of our fire alarms are not tech ready to be brought online but they are working towards updating every system in the district over time.

A big part of the bond's \$5M budget for security will be allocated to adding and upgrading vestibules in every school (12 schools). We can have an airlock and weapons screening for additional safety for visitor screening (not for the students, faculty, or staff who have IDs).

We will have screening detectors by Open Gate for visitors and parents in each of the buildings by the first day. They will not be manned by staff initially but will be monitored by security personnel for the first 30 days. Elementary student parents will still be allowed to enter the building the first day of school as long as they go through the screening sensors at the front of the building. In a long-term plan, these screenings will be in the vestibules before anyone can enter the building. Front office staff will be trained to take over responsibility after 30 days.

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Four of our elementary schools do not have a full-time SRO. Our Richland County schools have full coverage, but our Lexington County elementary schools still have unfilled positions. These SROs are provided by the counties, and Lexington County has not been able to fully staff its department. We have contracted with a security service for 6 officers who will be used to secure the perimeter and assist law enforcement personnel when needed. Since middle and high schools have more student-to-student issues than elementary schools, we have prioritized them to have SROs. The contracted security personnel are SLED certified and will be armed. As Lexington County fills the SRO positions, we will remove the contracted security personnel and use them as floaters throughout the district.

There are still many portables in our district, which cause security and weather-related issues. Our goal will be to remove all portables from our district. The proposed bond referendum will address this, but we will need to redistrict parts of our district because of the shift in population to Chapin away from Dutch Fork and Irmo. With the passage of the bond referendum, Chapin will still need to be redistricted, while if the bond referendum does not pass, the entire district will be shifted.

One change to the proposed bond question is the renovations of DFHS to include a robotics lab since DF Stem has a co-curricular need for a lab. This lab could potentially be used after school for the extracurricular needs of other schools. Mrs. Huddle mentioned that she thought several of the items on the bond question needed more specificity, including the "site improvements" for SOES and CRIS "as needed by the district."

We should be looking to fill our schools to 80% occupancy capacity, so we are leaving that extra 20% for lab space. This would make the program capacity of our schools 100%. The weights of each student are different, and the laws surrounding Title 1 make occupancy capacity hard to use as a measuring stick. The proposed bond would take care of 2 of the 4 elementary schools we currently have that do not have lab space. We hope the capital budget will take care of the other 2 in time.

The administration hopes to bring the 3 draft questions for the bond referendum to the August 22nd Board Meeting after the approval of the bond going to the ballot by the board on the August 8th Board Meeting. The 3 versions have different strengths and weaknesses. There does seem to be a lack of the ability to prioritize the projects with stipulations within the question itself. We should be able to enumerate that the only reason a project item could be removed from the bond would be for inflation or unforeseen costs and not for changing opinions on the board or the administration. And the items would be done in priority order, with the last priority projects falling off first. It was noted that these questions look like Chapin is only hoping to get a Fine Arts Center and nothing else. But the bond would provide for Chapin boundaries to stay in Chapin, but we cannot list this because it is not a specific project on how we would be spending the money.

The Population Study we ordered just came in as a draft but needs to be distributed by Dr. Ross to the board who have not seen it. We are to remember that it is a draft, and we will have the ability to revise it.

A reminder that if the proposed referendum fails, that equals the same debt service tax rate as if the referendum passes. The only difference is that we will have a 10-year plan in place with the hope that taxes will not rise in the near future.

These discussion items will be presented in summation at the August 8th Board Meeting.

Possible discussion topics for the next meeting include an enumeration of each school's program capacity and which children attend each school by choice from inside and outside the district. A possible district office facility update after the new CFO, Maddison Paul, has time to be acclimated to her new position.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Huddle and a second by Mrs. Gardner.