



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Members present: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

Others present: Jennifer Arevalo (SCSC), Frank Ball, Jeannine Dunn (SCSC), Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Michael Taylor, Kelly Venezia (SCSC), John Young (ICS), Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 Souderton Charter School Collaborative charter renewal information presentation

Mr. Landis called the Education-Personnel meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Dr. Gallagher announced that members of the SCSC (Souderton Charter School Collaborative) administration were in attendance this evening in support of the renewal of their charter. Dr. Gallagher stated that it is the intention of the administration to recommend the renewal of their charter.

Dr. Hey introduced the administration from SCSC; Jennifer Arevalo, Jeannine Dunn and Kelly Venezia. Dr. Hey noted that the charter renewal process which began last spring has been very collaborative and the formal application for renewal was submitted in October of last year. Dr. Hey also stated that several Board members recently made a visit to the school.

Ms. Dunn thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the SCSC and made introductions. A slide presentation was shared and Ms. Venezia spoke about the inception of the SCSC acknowledging the vision of school creators Wendy Ormsby and John Penny. Ms. Arevalo shared highlights of instructional practices, school recognition and student achievement. She also spoke to student involvement in the community as well as enhanced safety and security on their campus.

Ms. Arevalo shared plans for the future that include implementing a Student Teacher Partnership, distributed leadership goals and plans to increase student problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Dr. Hey stated that the administration has been very satisfied by the charter renewal documents submitted to the school district.

Mr. Landis commented favorably on his recent visit to the school and reminded everyone that many of the SCSC students will attend our high school as freshman.

Mr. Braccio praised the presentation inquiring about the percentage of students that actually attend SAHS and the SCSC representatives responded that on average, approximately 90 to 95% attend the high school, depending upon the year. Mrs. Wheeler also praised the recent visit to the SCSC and her witness of an enthusiastic environment. Messrs Barnacz, Brong, and Formica also thanked the SCSC for their presentation and the school tour.

Dr. Gallagher acknowledged SCSC Board member Jenny Marion, who was in the audience.

A member of the audience praised the presentation and asked about the timing of the anticipated renewal of the charter. Dr. Gallagher responded that it is under the review of legal representation at this time.

Mr. Landis adjourned the Education-Personnel meeting at 6:51 P.M.

2. Operations Committee

2.1 Approve Proposed 2025-2026 School Year Calendar

Dr. Gallagher announced the proposed school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

He stated the first day of school will be August 26th and the last day is June 10th. Dr. Gallagher added that there could be potential for several early dismissals to accommodate Professional Development for teachers mandated training. Those dates, if needed, would be announced in advance.

The Committee agreed to move forward for board approval.

2.2 Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA)

Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee meeting to order at 6:55 P.M.

Mr. Brong stated that this presentation was to inform on the proposed approval of a Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA) with ICS, Inc. for the renovation at West Broad Elementary School.

Facility solutions consultant Mr. Young of ICS Inc., was in attendance to review the project.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Taylor noted that there is a public bid portion and a GESA for this project, making it a hybrid approach as detailed in the Act 34 Hearing documents.

Mr. Young shared the presentation giving an overview of the West Broad Street project, noting that the delivery of the project would be a general contractor for the addition, site and architectural work - all public bid. The mechanical, electrical, plumbing and renovations will be GESA work. Both general contractor and GESA contractor will coordinate and work together. Mr. Young stated that general construction bids were received November 19th and the approval consideration for the public bid and the GESA Agreement to be approved on December 19, 2024

Mr. Young reviewed the scope of work summary which includes:

- 16,280 square feet of classroom addition - replacing modular classrooms.
- Major mechanical, electrical and plumbing renovations through the building
- Renovation of new finishes; ceilings, floors, corridor walls, and classroom casework
- Gymnasium will include resurface of gym floor, new curtain AV system, and roof replacement around gym.
- Replace exterior windows and doors.

Mr. Young shared a slide that depicted the site work that will accommodate the permanent addition. A new traffic pattern will be created to allow for parent pick and eliminating the traffic along West Broad Street. There are plans for relocation of hard surface play area as well as an altered bus loop and improved site circulation. Mr. Young also mentioned the planned demolition of the S.A.V.E. buildings which have fallen under disrepair. Mr. Young discussed the overall collaborative work that allowed for feedback to propose the improvement that will enrich the learning environment for the students.

Mr. Young also explained the classroom addition of 8 new rooms which will allow for additional instructional and small group instruction space. Mr. Young stated that ICS has worked extensively with administration, the West Broad Street Principal and staff to determine maximum utilization of space to meet the needs of students. He also indicated that the school which was built in the 1960's had not seen a renovation to this magnitude, which will include all new LED lighting, new flooring, casework, kitchen equipment and restroom upgrades to fixtures, accessibility and finishes.

Mr. Young reviewed the slide that showed the GESA Costs Breakout totaling \$22,571.951. The breakout detailed the specific costs within the scope of the project. A color-coded slide highlighting the phases of the project was shared. The construction schedule begins in April 2025 with an anticipated completion in August of 2027. Mr. Young reiterated that awareness and responsibility that all work will be performed while not interrupting instruction.

Mr. Brong noted that West Broad Street Elementary School is currently a fully-electric powered school and the change to natural gas will offer a cost savings in operations. Mr. Braccio asked for clarification on the natural gas install and Mr. Young responded that the system will remain electric until the new equipment is installed in Phase 2 of the project.

Mr. Barnacz noted that he had recently visited West Broad Street and that the renovation will be of great benefit to the school. Mrs. Flisak inquired about the use of the additional classroom spaces and Mr. Young stated that they will be used for regular instruction as well as small group instruction; reading specialists.

A member of the public expressed concern about the traffic flow and the storage of materials on site. Dr. Gallagher stated that student safety will be preserved whether on the sidewalk or temporary path. Mr. Young stated that contractors may need to store some materials off-site.

The Committee agreed to move forward for board action.

A member of the public asked about track improvement at Indian Valley MS and Mr. Brong said that additional information is needed before discussion may proceed.

The Operations Committee Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Taylor, C.P.A.
Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs