



Fayette County Public Schools

Local Planning Committee Meeting #6 Wednesday, January 29, 2025 – 5:30 p.m. Lafayette High School and Zoom

Members Present: Sarah Chumley, Carlos Cooper III, Lauren De Anda, Kimberlee Haddix, David Horton, Kiyon Jenkins, Jennifer Kendall, Dale Morgan, Anthony Orr, Dakota Penrod, Boyd Sewe, Alan Stein, Benjamin VanderHorst,

Staff Present: Melinda Joseph Dezarn, Bobby Howard, Beth Randolph, Nikita Reed, Katerine Lowther, Myron Thompson, Sherry Price

Mr. VanderHorst called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and Ms. Price took roll. There were 13 members present in person or by Zoom.

Ms. Melinda Joseph Dezarn, Director of Facility Design and Construction, shared history of Lafayette and SCAPA, a school for Creative and Performing Arts. SCAPA sits on 3.67 acres and has limited space with a smaller building. The 2017 plan included 1,000 seat auditorium as a separate facility and under category 5 – discretionary. In 2019, a feasibility study was conducted to determine if 701 East Main Street could accommodate SCAPA or a middle school, with both options being feasible. In 2020 a decision was made to place SCAPA at 701 East Main despite the high cost of renovation.

The current facility plan lists SCAPA as grades 4-8 with increasing enrollment from 300 to 650.

Ms. Katerine Lowther, Director of Fine Arts, presented on the need in Fayette County for a Fine Arts Center. There are 34,000 students participating in the 262 unique art courses Fayette County offers.

She introduced the Principal of SCAPA, Ms. Beth Randolph. The capacity at SCAPA is currently 300 students. There is a lottery with K-3 students and no audition at all. Grades 4-8 have an audition process.

The District Fine Arts Center that is proposed would serve not only our school district but community and state/national performances conferences and professional learning.

Ms. Lowther said the Fine Arts Center could sponsor many events i.e., elementary honors choir, fifth grade string day and black excellent events. We are renting space for some of those performances now.

The 1000-seat main stage would have raked seating, a fly space, dressing rooms, a tech booth, and a Marley dance floor. The 500-seat recital hall would be acoustically engineered for music and theater productions, saving schools like Ashland Elementary money on external rentals. The 300-seat flexible seating learning stage would be reconfigurable for various performances and technical theater courses. The Fine Arts Center would help alleviate some of the overcrowding at Lafayette.

Ms. Lowther displayed pictures of Boyle County Arts Academy that is adjacent to the Boyle County Middle School. There is also Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts that is comparable to what is proposed.

Dr. Anthony Orr, Principal of Lafayette High, mentioned the age of the school and issues with narrow hallways. He presented some videos of class change and crowded hallways which makes for an unsafe area. He also displayed pictures of the gym where students come in the morning and are screened. The gym floor cannot handle the weight of the metal detectors and that many students at the same time. Lafayette is the most overcrowded high school in the district.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The committee and staff at Lafayette took a tour of Lafayette, directed by Dr. Orr and SCAPA, led by Ms. Randolph.

The next meeting is February 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., at Winburn Middle School.