

Long Range Facilities Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2009

Attendees:	Charles Oestreich	Christy Serrage
	Donald Ludwig	Dr. Ines Segert
	Dr. Jack Jensen	Linda Quinley
	Dr. Nick Boren	Oscar Carter
	Tim Teddy	Dr. Tom Rose
	Dr. Wanda Brown	

Guests:	Dr. Mary Laffey	Dr. Lynn Barnett
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The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

Minutes from the May 28, 2009 were approved.

Dr. Segert asked for a copy of the EPA Air Toxins list that was distributed at the April meeting.

1. Discussion with Special Education Regarding Bearfield and Field

Dr. Lynn Barnett spoke regarding the proposal of moving the Bearfield program into Field Elementary upon the completion of Alpha Hart Elementary and the move of Field students and staff.

Dr. Barnett gave a brief introduction to the Bearfield program; how it started and the students it serves. There is a need to move Bearfield in order to consolidate for the sake of the children and better utilization of district resources.

Introduction:

Bearfield is a facility where children with disabilities are served where the IEP team has determined it is the least restrictive environment to meet their educational needs. Not all of the students served by this program are from Columbia. If the students don't originate from Columbia, the District will bill back the school district where the guardian resides (95% are not from Columbia).

Goals:

1. Academic Achievement
 - a. Achievement Gap
2. The District can provide – if the Bearfield program could access a school setting like Field we could offer a playground, gym, and media center. The District needs to provide the students a safe environment to help meet the legal requirements.

The District can also provide:

- a. Math
- b. Art
- c. Literacy

- d. Music
 - e. P.E.
3. Increase the opportunity for learning and attendance; even for a few kids this would be a benefit.
 4. Address dis-proportionality of students that are served in these programs in order to have the opportunity to close the achievement gap between various groups of students.

Through Special Education stimulus money that will be received; approximately \$4M, Special Education would like to use this money for Bearfield. A portion of this money can be used for renovations to make an appropriate learning environment for the students. This is a one time resource that does not come out of the district budget. Also, staff can be transferred with the program and the District does not have to employ extra staff.

Housing the Juvenile Task Force with the Bearfield students has the support of the Prosecutor's Office and other law enforcement agencies. Their presence will help support and monitor caseloads. This would be a good community effort to support the students.

Brian Gaub, principal at Douglass, can redirect resources for the after school program that is housed at Douglass and Hickman High Schools. The afterschool program at Hickman requires additional support staff and security to be on duty while the after school program is in session. Bearfield and Cedar Ridge Elementary share a resource officer that is provided by Boone County. Bearfield would lose access to the officer if they move into the city limits.

The question was posed if there was a possibility of danger to students and staff if the afterschool program and the Bearfield program were combined. Dr. Barnett felt there would be no danger; however there would need to be segregation of the two different programs. She also felt that there would be no impact on the neighborhood.

How to obtain goals:

Dr. Barnett felt that if the district could combine the programs there would be a great benefit.

The programs would be together with the appropriate site administrator, support staff, and teachers. They would also acquire more space to provide appropriate learning (gym and media center). Dr. Barnett mentioned that District needs to include the community in the efforts to address the Juvenile Crime Issues while keeping the children in school.

The committee felt it was worth bringing the proposal to the board for further discussion. The District would need to notify the owner of the Bearfield property if they do not intend to renew the lease. The current lease ends in July 2010.

The stimulus money that Special Education could help extend the life of Field School. There would need to be some additional renovations to the building such as adding a taller fence, re-flooring the gym and upgrading and updating

the bathrooms. Renovations could begin in January 2010 and consider moving in the spring so that Field does not remain empty for any length of time.

The committee felt that timing was very important in bringing this proposal to the Board. The committee needs to be prepared to discuss the change from making Field an Early Childhood Education Center to Bearfield. The committee needs to stress the needs and the available stimulus money that could help fund this move.

Dr. Segert and Dr. Rose will present the proposal to the Board at the July work session. This session will allow for public comment.

2. Review of the Long Range Goals

Goal 1 was a strategy to reduce the number of leased mobile classrooms. The District has been working on this goal. The number of leased trailers has been reduced. Charles Oestreich mentioned that the new high school should provide some relief to the intermediate schools, allowing the District to release more mobile classrooms. The opening of Alpha Hart Lewis could eliminate up to 16 mobile classrooms.

3. Schedule Additional Meetings

The schedule for upcoming meetings was discussed. Due to scheduling conflicts, it was decided to move the July 23, 2009 meeting to July 15, 2009.

4. Other Business

Bond issue decision – drop date is December- this will be a very important meeting.

Qualified Bond – The decision is pending. There were more applicants than anticipated. This money would help with debt services.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.