

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, Sandown
New Hampshire

Work Session
June 21, 2010
6:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Madam Chair Kosta called this June 21, 2010 work session of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Lori Aubrey, Robert Collins, Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola, John Paone, Louis Porcelli, Nancy Steenson (7:30 pm), Lisa Withee.

Board Members not in attendance

William Baldwin

Administrators Present

Richard La Salle, Superintendent of Schools
George Stokinger, Business Administrator
Scott Strainge, Director of Secondary Education
Donald Woodworth, Principal of TRHS
Michael Hogan, Principal of TRMS

Guests

Lance Whitehead, Lavallee Brensinger Architects
Fred Urtz, Lavallee Brensinger Architects

Pledge

Madam Chair Kosta led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Whitehead reported to the board that he was presented with the challenge, of modifying the current high school as a middle school. He is pleased to present design options for the middle and high school this evening. With these options he will show the time line and provide an overall understanding of the entire project.

Mr. Whitehead presented an option for a new high school with access from East Road. He reviewed the proposed location and why it was proposed.

He enlightened the board on the option of re-purposing the high school to a middle school. To achieve this option the athletic area would need to be re-built, with the main building receiving an energy upgrade. The high school interior would be re-organized into functional PODS/classrooms and learning centers which would create a positive learning environment for middle school students. The necessary added square footage would be accomplished by adding a second floor and re-organizing the entrance to the school which would also increase security.

The re-organization of the main building would consist of the addition of a central spine creating a center hall through the middle of the length of the school. This would accomplish the division of the court yards into a POD/Classroom configuration.

Mr. Hogan was not comfortable at first re-organizing the high school for a middle school. After several discussions with Mr. Whitehead he was impressed with the options and his dedication to creating a middle school learning environment. Mr. Hogan reviewed issues that concern middle school students to which Mr. Whitehead addressed with a POD design, central spine throughout the building, a comprehensive wellness center, and a redesign of the gym and café.

Mr. Whitehead explained that previously the consideration was to remove 50% of the high school which only accomplished 75% of the needs/goals. With the re-purposing design he now has realized 95% of the needs/goals.

Mr. La Salle asked the board to consider utilizing the latest building addition to the middle school. One issue is the electrical and heating systems, however the building itself is solid and should be retained if possible. He then clarified that students would not have to go outside to access the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Mr. La Salle reviewed all the positive aspects of each building. At the high school he noted the limited educational opportunities that would be provided to the student from a 1960's building. The new high school would engage students in a group designed building. It is important that the learning environment support students' educational needs. That means modern technology, educational programs and appropriate space and environment for high school students.

Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Urtz from Leveille Brensinger answered many questions from the board on the details of each building.

At 7:35 pm a five minute break was taken and the work session resumed at 7:42 pm.

Mr. La Salle noted that there is a moratorium on building funding at this time. The planning of a project is one of the most important aspects in controlling the costs. He believes that there are two options: First, obtain estimates for bonding purposes only. Or second, incur all the design and engineering costs with a written service agreement to be fully prepared when the moratorium is lifted. But the rules and regulations for funding could change.

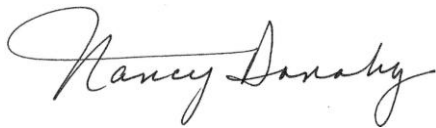
Mr. Whitehead then addressed options for the schedule. He talked about how the project could be considered one or two projects, and how to obtain guarantee maximum price quotes. The discussion continued regarding pre-bond costs for architect and engineering.

The importance of communication was discussed and as well as the need to work with voters to keep them involved and informed. The discussion continued on the cost and the importance of proper planning for the project.

Mr. La Salle noted that the board must now consider some options: should the planning of this project go to the next step in the process? If so, how much money should be considered? Should the public relations committee take on this project? The discussion continued regarding education, learning environment, increase rigor in the curriculum for students and the need for a solid learning environment.

The work session ended at 9:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Danahy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Nancy Danahy
School Board Recording Clerk