

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT OPERATIONS
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
1/10/18**

Board Committee Chair and School Board Member Eunice Franklin-Becker called the meeting to order at 5:24 p.m. Other Committee Members Present: Adam Schupack

Other Board Members present: Felix Raimondo, Leslie Finegold, Sue Moore, Rosemary Northcutt, Cathy Peduzzi, Jennifer Dow

Also attending: Dr. Christian, Superintendent; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Joseph Lally, Director of Facilities; Dave Sherman, Community Relations; Dave Szablowski, Business Manager; Mark Digian, Financial Manager

Community members and teachers attending: Linda Doll, Community Resident; Lisa Dresnin, Community Resident; Mrs. Beth Suchsland, Community Resident; Mrs. Cindy Slagle, Teacher; Mr. Robert Slagle, Teacher; Mrs. Jill Forster, Teacher; and Mrs. Beth Miller, Teacher

Public comment on the Agenda:

There was no public comment on the agenda.

CSD Construction Project Updates:

Mr. Yemm and Mr. Lally presented a PowerPoint showing the progress of the PW school lobby and the locker rooms for West Gym. The steel is now going up for the West Gym.

The presentation also included slides showing the Baseball Complex and Victory Field #1 which is complete. The netting is now up around Victory Field #1 protecting the walkways and parking lots.

Mrs. Doll asked if the fencing that runs parallel with Colonial Drive was still in the plan. Mr. Yemm replied that it was, but the ground is too frozen to put fencing in at this time and it will be put in when the ground has thawed. Mrs. Suchsland asked if the date for the completion of West Gym was still on schedule and Mr. Yemm replied that it was and the target date is August 9, 2018 for the opening.

PWHS Main Electric Service Upgrade:

CES and PWHS are on the same electric grid system. With the increased need for power for the new West Gym and possible future projects, the electric service needs to be upgraded. As there are several new board members that are on the FM/T Committee Mr. Yemm made the decision to gain the consensus of the committee prior to advertising the project. Mr. Yemm explained the process of the upgrade to the committee including what the district's part is in the upgrade and also PECO's part in the process. A major concern is the timeline for the equipment. The lead time for getting the equipment is about 14 weeks which makes it imperative that the bid process start as soon as possible. The committee was reminded that the funding for this project, estimated at \$350,000, was allocated in the five year capital reserve plan. At the beginning of this past summer there was \$550,000 identified in the five year capital plan for a new electric service for Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. This project, as well as the funding for same, was approved along with the change order for the west gymnasium at the special meeting on June 22, 2017. It was the consensus of the committee members that the district move forward with advertising of the bid for the electric upgrade.

Student Enrollment: Increase CES/CMS – Strategic Plan

Dr. Christian opened a dialogue with the committee regarding the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCCP) Cohort Planning Model for future growth in the surrounding communities and increases in enrollment in the Colonial School District schools. He noted that the district has already increased the sizes of Plymouth Elementary and Ridge Park Elementary by adding four (4) classrooms at each school and now needs to focus on the Colonial Elementary School and Colonial Middle School because of the increased school population. CSD needs to consider the impact on the students and the educational program. The district needs to begin planning for expansion, renovation and potential grade realignment at CES and CMS. Three scenarios were presented for consideration.

Scenario #1: Move the 6th grade to CES and make it a 4, 5, 6 grade school. Relocate the District Office off-site by leasing space. Put an addition on CES that would not infringe on the land covenant behind the playground. The net effect of the addition at CES is an increase in square footage from 169,000 to 190,400, or 21,400 square feet.

Scenario # 2: CES remains a 4-5 building and DO remains in 4-5 building with minor renovations. A new middle school building would be built and house 6, 7 and 8 grades. The net effect of building a new middle school is an increase in square footage from 190,000 to 244,970 or 54,970 square feet.

Scenario #3: Keep the 4-5 grade configuration at CES with minor renovations to the building. Put an addition on CMS plus renovation of the existing building. Keep DO at the 4-5 building. The net effect of the addition at CMS is an increase in square footage from 190,000 to 233,500 square feet, or 43,500 square feet.

With each of these scenarios, the district needs to consider the educational impact on students including the team building philosophy, teacher certification ramifications from changing grade configurations (grades 4-6), the Foreign Language Program for middle school, traffic and parking issues, field logistics and cost to the tax payers among many others things. There was a question asking if Whitmarsh Township would consider allowing the use of the covenant land for an addition to CES. Mr. Yemm said that he did approach the township on the subject, but it would involve a number of items including polling the neighbors and he didn't think they would change the covenant. Information was provided regarding a few teachers whose certifications are valid for the existing 6,7,8 grade alignment but may not be valid for a 4,5,6 grade alignment. Mrs. Moore commented that whatever the district's decision, the staff will do whatever needs to be done to be compliant with their certifications. Mr. Slagle, President of CEA also commented that the teachers will maintain a role in the dialogue around this decision-making process.

It was also pointed out that all district parents need to be made aware of the process. Dr. Christian replied that the district would be putting the information of the process on the CSD website so that everyone would be informed.

There was a short discussion of the maturity of 6th graders to handle the typical middle school configuration as opposed to staying in a 4,5 grade concept. Dr. Christian noted some information on a study out of North Carolina regarding this configuration in middle school with regards to bullying and maturity levels.

The committee and Dr. Christian clarified that the current grade configuration works well programmatically and educationally at the middle school and the problem the board needs to solve is the need to add capacity at the middle school.

The cost of each scenario was discussed. Scenarios #1 – approximately – \$58,000,000 plus \$300,000 per year lease or \$65,000,000 if DO is at the middle school. Scenario #2 – approximately \$110,000,000 and Scenario #3 – \$51,000,000 to \$53,000,000.

Dr. Christian noted that it is imperative that the committee make a decision on going forward with one of these scenarios as soon as possible. The current projection for increased enrollment requires building expansion for the 2019-2020 school year. That is twenty (20) months from today. The design phase of the project takes approximately ten (10) months to complete. The land development process takes approximately six (6) to twelve (12) months. Final approval from the townships can take several months. In addition, this project qualifies for PlanCon reimbursement. A very conservative estimate on the amount of reimbursement is \$2,000,000. Per Plancon rules and regulations we are required to have construction contracts signed by July of 2019. If the contracts are not signed by July of 2019 we forfeit any reimbursement for the project.

Tax Cost Ramifications for each Scenario: Dave Szablowski

Mr. Szablowski presented a chart explaining the tax ramifications to the public discussing the millage increases for each scenario. He also explained the importance of the timing for borrowing comparing the cost in 2018 to 2019 and how the costs for borrowing money will probably increase based on what the Fed does in the near future.

A discussion ensued among some of the Board members expressing their opinions of which scenarios they preferred and why they preferred them. A Board member asked Dr. Christian which scenario he was leaning toward and he said Scenario #3. Another Board member asked the projected life of the middle school building if

it was renovated. If the Board has questions they are to forward them to Mr. Yemm before the February meeting. Some other questions discussed included if all extras were included in the final cost projections and were the asbestos issues also included in the cost. Dr. Christian suggested that we have Mr. Godshall from GKO come to the February meeting.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Yemm
Director of Operations