

Central Berkshire Regional School District
School Building Project Committee Meeting
Thursday January 11, 2018

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School District School Building Needs Committee, held at Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton, MA, on Thursday January 11, 2018 was called to order by Co-Chair Armacost at 5:00

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawn Armacost (Co-Chair), Tom Callahan (Co-Chair), Robert Archambault (Student Rep), Anna Duquette (Student Rep), John Bartels, Mike Case, Wayne Cronnell, Mike Daniels, Jason Dion, Bonny DiTomasso, Todd Emerson Andrew Garcia, Mike Hinkley, Kerry Mason, Bill Mulholland, Jan Paxton, Rich Peters, Chuck Sturtevant, Shawn Therrien, Aaron Robb, Melinda Walton, Superintendent Laurie Casna,

Absent: Gary Campbell Jr., Liz Daniels, Jake Eberwein, Mike Hagmaier, John McComish, Roberta McCulloch Dews, Assistant Superintendent Melissa Falkowski

Also Present: Recording Secretary, John Benzinger, Dale Caldwell(Skanska), Vladimir Lyubetsky, Carl Franceschi (DRA), Members of the Audience

2. Validation of Agenda

Co-Chair Callahan and Co-Chair Armacost validated the agenda as required by the open meeting law.

3. Response from Audience

None

4. Approval of minutes from December 14, 2017 meeting

MOVED BY MEMBER CASE SECONDED BY MEMBER HINKLEY

To approve the minutes of the School Building Committee minutes of December 14, 2017 as printed.

Ayes: 22 members

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Co-Chair Callahan introduced Mike Hinkley to the group who had previously made part of a previous meeting and is joining the School Building Committee.

Superintendent Casna outlined what is going to be presented to the committee at this meeting.

Presenters were DRA Vladimir Lyubetsky and Carl Franceschi of DRA and Dale Caldwell and John Benzinger of Skanska.

Committee members introduced themselves.

5. Presentation from the Design Team, Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. (DRA)

Dale Caldwell of Skanska started the PowerPoint presentation. Financial information was shown first to define the overall budget of \$850,000.

Carl Franceschi of DRA spoke next. He briefed the committee on the PowerPoint agenda:

- Introduction
- Relevant Experience
- Key Issues
- Next Steps

DRA's profile showed they have been in business for 95 years

Currently, the company employs 35 architects. DRA has a host of high schools they have worked on over the past 13 years. They do have the capacity to take on the Wahconah project.

Carl showed several school projects that the firm has completed. DRA has done a variety of designs such as additions, renovations and building completely new schools. DRA is the design team for the Taconic High School project in Pittsfield, which is set to open in six months.

Wahconah currently has 536 students in the building- the agreement with MSBA is to design the school for 460 students based on enrollment projections.

Carl spoke about the challenges we will face and how they will be creative and flexible in their space design- visioning and educational planning will address operational plan ideas.

Key Issues

- New vs renovation
- 21st century learning
- Design to declining enrollments
- Challenges of a small high school
- Phased occupied construction- there will be construction in close proximity to classrooms even if it is a new build
- Community engagement- strategies

DRA will look at all possibilities: Base repair, renovations, upgrades, addition and total rebuild.

Carl showed slides of possible ideas of where the building will expand or be rebuilt

Next Steps: 3 major submittals to the state in spring 2018 (early May)

1. Preliminary Design Program
 - Analysis of existing conditions
 - Educational Issues
 - Alternatives
2. Preferred Schematic Report Fall 2018 (goal: early September submission to MSBA and then they have a board vote on October 31)
 - Decide on 1 preferred option
 - Educational Plan
 - Evaluation of Alternatives

After the board votes the next step is:

3. Schematic Design Winter of 2018/2019 (we are trying to get 4/10/19 approval from MSBA)
 - Scope
 - Budget

- Schedule

At this point, it becomes a “contract” between the district and the state

After MSBA approves then the towns vote and we need 51% approval from the towns

In the upcoming months, the group will be working on:

- Developing the educational plan
- Vision sessions will take place; they are 2-3 days of various work sessions (Tom and Aaron are going to get some definite dates for that)
- The real project will be based on the educational plan
- Community Outreach will be done initially in March
 - a) DRA will facilitate the meetings in the towns
 - b) Public should feel like they have input before the decision is finalized
 - c) They spend 1/3 of the meeting presenting and then they break into smaller groups gathering to talk about general issues or more specific – site, traffic, educational, etc.
 - d) The committee will come back together and share the feedback

John from Benzinger spoke about time frame and extra incentives.

Laurie will send out calendars – Full committee meetings will take place the first Thursday of every month
Sub committees will need to meet more often.

Laurie will try to get a shared calendar so that the full committee knows all of the events taking place
Visioning sessions are planned for Jan 29 and February 16.

Also will be looking to form a small group to meet with the architects every other week. This specific group will focus on meeting biweekly

Discussion was opened up and some points touched on were:

- Size of auditoriums
- Functional space, weight room/fitness room
- Sustainability of building- make sure it won't be outdated within 10 years- MSBA requires design to be sustainable for 40-50 years
- Efficient use of space
- Process of approval. Towns need to understand that this committee respects the process and that there is a lot of regulations and professional guidance going along throughout the process.
- Flexible learning space which reflects the way we teach
- Learning curve for custodians with new building
- Plan for long term technology changes
- Short term and long term design perspective- the use and incorporation of green and clean technology. Incorporating the self-sustainable campus. It would be nice to have this campus viewed as a model for future schools.
- The sharing of common spaces to make it more efficient and sectioning it off securely so that the public does not need to enter the building to use the facilities while they are in sporting events or auditorium events
- Community outreach keeping it transparent as possible
- Speak to the students about their ideas

6. Adjournment

Adjournment 6:23 PM