

Central Berkshire Regional School District  
School Building Project Committee Meeting  
Thursday March 15, 2108

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 March 15, 2018 was called to order by Co-Chair Armacost at 4:32

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawn Armacost (Co-Chair), Tom Callahan (Co-Chair), Wayne Cronnell, Mike Daniels, Jason Dion, Andrew Garcia, Bill Mulholland, Jan Paxton, Rich Peters, Shawn Therrien, Melinda Walton, Superintendent Laurie Casna, Assistant Superintendent Melissa Falkowski

Absent: Robert Archambault (Student Rep), John Bartels, Gary Campbell Jr., Mike Case, Bonny DiTomasso, Anna Duquette (Student Rep) Liz Daniels, Jake Eberwein, Todd Emerson Mike Hagmaier, Mike Hinkley, Kerry Mason, John McComish, Roberta McCulloch Dews, Aaron Robb, Chuck Sturtevant,

Also Present: Recording Secretary, Members of Skanska, Members of DRA, Members of the Audience

2. Validation of Agenda

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

3. Response from Audience

None

4. Approval of minutes from February 15, 2018 meeting

MOVED BY MEMBER DION SECONDED BY MEMBER GARCIA

*To approve the minutes of the School Building Committee minutes of February 15, 2018 as printed.*

Ayes: 13 members

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Carl Franchesci (DRA) gave an overview of his PowerPoint Presentation.

The process is moving along as planned. The committee is focused on the elements for the first step of the Preliminary Design Program.

Co-Chair Armacost asked when we would get the first cost estimate. Carl answered there will be an order of magnitude cost and then when we zero in on the preferred option we will have a second estimate. Carl added that there is an evolution of cost that gets more refined as we move through the process.

Currently, Educational Program is the primary focus – this is done generically so it can apply to whether it is a new school or a renovated school. This plan is well under way and a draft of it will soon to be shared with the committee.

Carl gave a Summary of Educational Visioning Sessions.

A few of the most important points were:

- Student Engagement
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills
- Project Based Learning
- Teacher Planning Centers
- Safety and Security

Learning modalities were shown on the slide as well as physical plans of the learning design. Designs shown included “cluster classrooms” adjacent to collaborative areas and restrooms. As well as flexible, functional break out spaces.

Discussion continued with slide diagrams regarding how the spaces would be set up.

Space was shown as one level, however the school can be 2 levels with classrooms on top, which makes for a smaller footprint. One notion is to have other shapes than rectangle for classrooms in order to take up less space. Continued discussion on the building size being based on sq. ft. per student- the sliding scale that is used by MSBA levels off at 639 students. We requested some additional sliding based on our lower number of 480.

John Benzinger (Skanska) believes we need this committee to vote to approve the PDP phase- so he will research to see if we need to do that.

#### Evaluation of Existing conditions:

Vladimir Lyubetsky (DRA) summarized where we are with the evaluations. Mike, Jason and Melissa spent time with this group going through the building. They completed their review and distributed a draft report with the civil engineers and architect’s reports. A separate consultant reported on the kitchen and handicap accessibility. Generally speaking, the service life of mechanical and electrical structures of the building are beyond the expected lifespan. The roof is newer but will no longer be under warranty at the time the project goes to construction. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for safety and structural visits.

Next on the slide was preliminary alternatives relating to the feasibility of locating a new building and still having access to the old school.

Important points and thoughts that were discussed:

- How well does the solution meet the educational goals, cost (consider the reimbursement from the state- broken down by each town for any proposed solution)
- Temporary costs vs costs with long term value
- Operating and Maintenance (costs in the future to the district)

#### Upcoming community meetings:

March 27- Windsor (5:00 pm) & WRHS (7:00 pm)

March 29 - Becket-Washington Elementary (5:00 pm) & Kittredge Elementary (7:00 pm)

These community meetings will be discussion meetings which will start off as one group and then be broken into smaller groups to have small group discussions.

The plan for these meetings is:

- Have one or two of the meetings recorded.
- Consider offering refreshments
- Ideally it would be nice to have members of this committee (from the meeting town) start off the meetings and introduce the design team before the design team presents
- Describe MSBA process and give a status of where we are with those plans

Agenda for Community Workshops:

- Meeting to last about 90 minutes
- Introduction – 5 minutes
- Presentation – 25 minutes

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- Small Group Meetings– 50 minutes
- Wrap up – 10 minutes

John asked about creating a roster so we can have people commit to being at these meetings. Laurie will work on doing that.

The next full School Building Committee meeting will be Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30-6:00 in the Wahconah Library.

5. Adjournment

*Adjournment 5:45 PM*