

**PHYSICAL PLANTS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

APRIL 24, 2023

6:00 P.M. FOLLOWING CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, BOARD ROOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Donna Zariczny, Chairperson

Ms. Marcy Morgan

Mr. Arthur Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Cody Brown

Mr. Joseph Colosimo

Mr. Jeffery Dougherty

Mr. Paul Mangione

Mr. Kevin Lindvay

Ms. Mary Passinger

Ms. Amy Stewart

Mr. Gary Weber

Mr. Jim Grosch

Mr. Eric Mineweaser

Dr. Patricia Mead

Ms. Lynn Shultz

Ms. Leslie Bloomgren

Mr. David Undercoffer

Ms. Taylor Trisket

Ms. Ruth Huck

Mr. Rick Gignac

Ms. Jennifer Dilks

Mr. Brandon Deppen

Mr. Mike Kiehl

Mr. Matt Jones

Mr. Brian Ferry, *WTO*

Ms. Amy Beers

Mr. Adam VanOrd

Ms. Amy Stimmell

Ms. Betsy Sobkowski

Mr. Brian Reynolds

Mr. Glenn Smith

Ms. Heather Stover

Mr. Jason Markiewicz

Ms. Jennifer Hobbs

Mr. Jim Evers

Ms. Julia Murphy

Ms. Kim Yourchisin

Ms. Kylie Harris

Ms. Lisa Smith

Ms. Liz Kent

Ms. Misty Weber

Mr. Paul Crider

Mr. Shawn Bedow

Ms. Shelly Wagner

Approximately 62 members of the public were present.

1.0 Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 p.m. by chairperson, Ms. Donna Zariczny.

1.2 Public Comment

Marcia Hoffman	Sheffield	<p>Ms. Marcia Hoffman stated that 90 minutes from here, is the smallest school district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Austin Area School District (AASD). She explained the average class size for AASD is about 10 students per grade and ranks higher educationally than the WCSD high schools according to Schooldigger which proves teaching in small class sizes can be done successfully. In her opinion on a financial and social aspect, a high school setting of a class size of one hundred students or a minimum of 25 students would be reasonable. She has had conversations with friends on why many students are leaving the WCSD for Cyber and Charter schooling. The Master Facilities Plan (MFP) has focused on bringing better education to students and to bring the students who have left back into the district but there has been no plan in place on how to accomplish this. She is concerned a reconfiguration will result in losing even more students to Cyber. Ms. Hoffman referenced her suggestions from a previous meeting of offering distance learning, making dual enrollment more well known, adding some blended classes for the virtual academy program, and hiring teachers outside of the district to teacher virtual academy classes. Other ideas would be to incorporate block scheduling and bringing careers into the classrooms from working and retired professionals. Those choosing college prep paths are not getting exposed to careers to match their interests. Ms. Hoffman also suggested switching to a four-day week or every other four-day week, which she believes would increase student attendance and a way to recruit teachers and maintain current ones. She referenced studies which show moving to a four-day week decreases bullying incidents. Ms. Hoffman mentioned there are many ideas presented and she hopes to see a good option implemented.</p>
Kelly Sullivan	Youngsville	<p>Ms. Kelly Sullivan spoke during public comment via Zoom. She feels the FAQ document is helpful but does not answer all the questions that have been repeatedly asked. She thanked Ms. Donna Zariczny for responding to her son's question in the April 18th Community Engagement Session asking why the school board will not slow down the process. She explained the timeline for the Community Engagement Sessions has changed but the timeline to vote has not changed. She feels the most recent change determined on April 20th of extending the voting date to June 12th, only two weeks after the original voting date, does not make much of a difference. She wonders how the district plans to keep staff in the schools to maintain smaller class size if the ESSER dollars will be running out. She</p>

		understands the need for the Master Facilities Plan (MFP) but asks the board to please put the vote off for a few more months to work on the budget as she feels this is where the focus needs to be. Ms. Sullivan inquires if the MFP is still factual as it was held off due to COVID-19. She asked why a community meeting cannot be held in each of the high schools. She feels by coming together as a community, a solution can be made.
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2.0 Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

3.0 New Business.

3.1. Open-ended Electrical Agreement

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the Independent Contractor agreement authorizing Blackhawk Neff, Inc. to perform electrical services for the District subject to the restriction that the total amount paid shall not exceed \$100,000, as presented.

Action: This motion will go to the consent agenda.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

4.0 Informational Items

4.1 Projects Update

Mr. David Undercoffer mentioned there are bid openings occurring on Friday, April 28th for the Miscellaneous Masonry Repair Project (WCSD #2301), the Miscellaneous Door Replacement Project (WCSD #2302) and the Youngsville Elementary School Boiler Upgrade Project (WCSD #2307). He asks to have the agreements added to the May 8th board meeting. Mr. Undercoffer explained the Warren County Career Center HVAC Project (WCSD #2303) and the BWMS and Eisenhower LGI Enclosing Classroom Project (WCSD #2305) bid openings have been pushed back and he would like to bring both agreements to the June 12th board meeting.

4.2 Other

Mr. Undercoffer updated the board on the status of the PA system at Warren Area Elementary Center. He explained it has been addressed and technology has been able to get it working for the meantime. He has been in the process of getting quotes to replace the system. Mr. Jeffery Dougherty thanked the district for addressing the issue as he was in the building for a safety drill a few weeks ago and was alarmed the system was not working. He expressed how important being able to talk with staff and students is, especially when there are safety concerns. Ms. Amy Stewart explained it has been difficult getting someone to work on the system.

5.0 Other

5.1 Master Facilities Planning (MFP) Work Session

Ms. Jacqui Catrabone from Strategy Solutions, presented the input received from the teachers, support staff, and community stakeholders from the invite only focus groups. The input represents the plusses, potentials, cons, and concerns for the six options as well as other considerations. The document can be viewed on Board-Docs at the April 24th Physical Plants and Facilities Committee meeting under agenda item 5.1 Master Facilities Planning (MFP) Work Session. In a subsequent meeting, the input from the student focus and public engagement sessions will be presented. At this time, two student focus groups have been completed and two more will be completed this week.

Ms. Amy Stewart presented the data given to her from the transportation department which shows the areas of concern for transporting students. She explained the area east of the Glade bridge and west of Clarendon has four grades 9-12 students, Mohawk Avenue has thirteen grades 9-12 students, Pleasant Drive has six grades 9-12 students, and Starbrick has eighteen grades 9-12 students who all attend Warren Area High School. She has asked the transportation department to gather numbers for the area west of Sugar Grove and north of the boundary between the western and northern attendance areas.

A board member asked if there is an update on the possibility of the attendance areas branching off to create their own districts as she has the understanding approval from the state would be required and it would be unlikely to happen. Ms. Stewart responded by saying she had reached out to the Intermediate-Unit (IU) who then reached out to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The feedback received was this is in opposition to the goal the Commonwealth is trying to achieve which is to combine districts but at this time there has been no formal answer. Ms. Stewart explained PDE is having a difficult time filling positions such as Superintendents and teachers as is. The same board member referenced the data from the Pennsylvania Association of Retired State Employees (PARSE) sent out by Ms. Stewart which shows the number of certified teachers has significantly decreased. Ms. Stewart added the number of non-certified teachers has surpassed the number of certified teachers in Pennsylvania.

A board member inquired what it would cost to create a K-12 in Youngsville. Ms. Stewart received information from a consultant, Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht, retired Director of Buildings & Grounds for the district, who projected a renovation to cost 30% more than it would have cost before COVID-19 which would now be about a \$25,000,000 project. She explained there would be no reimbursement as PlanCon and QZAB are no longer available.

A board member expressed confusion about the document presented by Ms. Catrabone as some of the data does not appear to make sense. Ms. Amy Stewart agreed some of the responses do not make sense, but she believes they may have been misinterpreted. The board member is interested in breaking down the data and reviewing it closely in another meeting.

A board member asked if the renovation at Warren Area High School decreased the amount of space within the building. Ms. Amy Stewart responded by saying the footprint had increased significantly from what it was originally. The board member referenced the multiple comments regarding overcrowding at Warren Area High School and clarified the graduating classes used to be much larger with the smaller footprint and now there is added space. Another board member added by saying bringing students from Sheffield to Warren would make roughly the same number of students who attended Warren Area High School 14 years ago and now there is a larger building. Ms. Amy Stewart commented Warren Area Elementary Center and Beaty Warren Middle School are the only schools that are really in need of space, but it is largely due to the amount of special education programs housed within those schools. A board member asked for clarification on why money would need to be put into creating a K-12 in Youngsville if there is already available space to move students around. Ms. Amy Stewart explained both Youngsville Elementary School and Youngsville Middle/High School need a renovation, but she does not feel that all K-12 students could fit into either building as they are now. A board member inquired what an estimate would be for a K-8 renovation in Youngsville would be as it would help the board to analyze their decision.

Ms. Amy Stewart summarized the additional transportation costs post reimbursement discussed in the April 18th Community Engagement Session. She also clarified when adding a van driver, the van driver does not have to have a CDL which makes it easier for the transportation contractors to find drivers.

Ms. Amy Stewart presented the criteria charts for student wellness, learning environment, class size, special education, and teacher workload. These charts can be viewed on Board-Docs at the April 24th Physical Plants and Facilities Committee meeting under agenda item 5.1 Master Facilities Planning (MFP) Work Session. She mentioned there have been conversations in previous meetings regarding how to repurpose unused space, but she believes those discussions need to be had with the community. She explained there have been a lot of questions regarding dual enrollment opportunities and she clarified dual enrollment is paid for by the parents, not by the school district. A board member inquired what the online survey for board members to rank the criteria will look like. Ms. Jacqui Catrabone explained they will be given a SurveyMonkey of the 9 criteria to rank their importance. A board member asked if others feel the need to look further at the data. A board member responded by pushing out the timeline, it allows the board time to have an engaged dialog and to analyze the data further. Ms. Amy Stewart asked board members to reach out with data they would like to see if it is not already outlined in the FAQ. A board member expressed his interest in presenting his questions and concerns to the community to gain feedback on issues. Another board member referred to the revised timeline by saying there is now time to have the dialog and the community will be receiving answers to their questions in the next couple of weeks. They further explained the revised timeline is detailed regarding what is being talked about at those meetings. A board member thanked those who spoke during public comment for showing respect when addressing the board. They spoke personally how much easier it is to sit and listen when they are treated with respect.

5.2 Master Facilities Planning (MFP) Revised Timeline

A board member expressed their interest in keeping the timeline as is without further extending the date. The timeline can be viewed on Board-Docs at the April 24th Physical Plants and Facilities Committee meeting under agenda item 5.2 Master Facilities Planning (MFP) Revised Timeline.

5.3 Other

There was no other to discuss.

6.0 Closing Activities

6.1 **Next Meeting Date** – Monday, May 22, 2023, following the CIT committee.

6.2 **Executive Session** – There was no executive session.

6.3 **Adjournment** at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Trisket, Secretary
Physical Plant and Facilities Committee