

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
OF
CLAY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

A Special Session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN 47834, on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. Tom Reberger, Scott Hill, Fred Froderman, Ron Scherb, Amy Burke Adams, and Shane Wiram were present. Kevin Kumpf was absent.

I. Call to Order

The special session meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Ron Scherb.

II. Adoption of 2016 Budget, Capital Projects Plan, School Bus Replacement Plan and Levy Neutrality

Superintendent Fritz stated that there were resolutions prepared for the Board's signatures to adopt the 2016 Budget, Capital Projects Plan, School Bus Replacement and Levy Neutrality. In response to Superintendent Fritz's question as to whether the Board wished to have the resolutions read in their entirety prior to a vote or whether reading the resolutions would be waived, which Superintendent Fritz suggested, the Board opted to waive reading the resolutions. Approval of the budget materials was recommended.

Dr. Froderman moved to approve the 2016 Budget, Capital Projects Plan, School Bus Replacement Plan and Levy Neutrality, and Mr. Hill seconded.

Under discussion, Mr. Scherb observed that every year part of the Capital Projects money is used to pay utility bills. Although Mr. Scherb understands that this is in state law and was approved about ten years ago, he does not like the fact that it takes money away from Capital Projects, in the amount of about \$738,000 this year, and he wished there was some way to break that habit.

The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

III. Presentation of Initial Scope of Secondary Renovation Project

Mr. Chuck Tyler of Fanning-Howey Architecture offered a Power Point presentation regarding the initial scope of the proposed secondary renovation project. A copy of the Power Point presentation will become a part of the official minutes.

Following Mr. Tyler's presentation, discussion items included the following:

- Mrs. Adams
 - Are there plans for a hallway at Clay City Jr/Sr High School so that the new addition could be accessed from the main building without going through the gym? Mr. Tyler's reply was that they had not looked at additional square footage to go all the way along one edge or the other in

order to connect, but it was something that certainly could be investigated further.

- Two years ago, the school corporation brought in a gentleman who was a security expert, and for one week he did assessments and made recommendations on how to improve the security in each of the corporation's buildings: Was that report utilized or was there anything that he recommended that could be used as the buildings are renovated? Superintendent Fritz responded, stating that the report done by that gentleman was not used in this particular project. A lot of things in his report have already been addressed; some will be addressed. The entrances could not be addressed until a building project was done.
- At North Clay, if the lockers are relocated from the Commons area to down the hall, it had been mentioned that there was enough space to accommodate those lockers on each side; however, that narrows the hallway. What considerations have been taken for wheelchair-bound children? In reply, Mr. Tyler stated that there will be a certain percentage of the lockers that are handicapped accessible. Typically, those are strategically located at locations that are more easily accessible than others. The benefit of the current design is that the hallways are 14 feet wide, so the additional locker width can be absorbed and still be within what has classically been the recommended clearance when there are lockers on both sides of the hallway, and that is a design standard that's used extensively. In response to Mrs. Adams' question as to whether the narrower hallway would affect the flow of the movement of students, Mr. Tyler stated that there would be a different flow: Instead of the conflict that currently exists at the locker commons with all students converging and reaching above and below each other trying to get into lockers, the lockers would be full height and would distribute that flow much more successfully. The vast majority of students would remain within their grade-level hallway, which would reduce the amount of travel that's going to occur. There may be situations for some students who may have to travel to get to another hallway, but all in all, it should have a very positive effect on the building.
- Noting that front entrances would be examined for security concerns and needs for upgrades, Mrs. Adams wanted to know if existing security systems would be extended into new additions. She was told that they would.
- In reply to Mrs. Adams' question about what would be done with the Commons area at North Clay if the lockers are moved, Superintendent Fritz stated that it would open that area up and make it much bigger, and it could be used for student collaboration. Mr. Fritz added that the vast majority of disciplinary issues are in that area because it is hard to supervise. North Clay Middle School Principal Robert Boltinghouse agreed with Superintendent Fritz, noting that when looking at the system now in place, there are basically three rows of locker bays for each grade level, and when 900 students are all in that area, back to back, it's a

disaster. If the lockers are moved, all of the students would be spread out the length of the hallway, and seventh grade would be kept upstairs in their designated area. He believed it would make things much smoother for students. Superintendent Fritz added that the students would also be moving from half-size lockers where students have to reach over other students to full-size lockers that would be side by side.

- Mrs. Adams stated that she would be grateful if they would consider including the school corporation's technology director in planning because he will have to work with whatever system is designed and accepted. Mr. Tyler responded, stating that the head of his technology department had already met with Mr. Milner, and there had been several sessions with him.
- Regarding the Clay City project, Mrs. Adams wanted to know if the first gym would be shored up before the second gym was added on. She noted that there had been some stability issues, and she wanted to make sure the existing structure was to be repaired before an addition was built. Mr. Tyler stated that the structural issues to which Mrs. Adams was referring were primarily occurring on the north addition, and part of that addition would be removed and replaced entirely. He noted that the older portion of the building is more stable than that new addition. Mrs. Adams then shared her opinion that it would be nice to see a hall that ran right down by the parking lot; that way, both gyms could be accessed from the outside. It would also allow a person to enter one gym without going through the other.
- Mr. Scherb
 - Asserting that a lot of the teachers and employees at North Clay were not sold on the idea of moving the lockers, Mr. Scherb wanted to know why the lockers were being moved. Mr. Tyler commented that they had heard at the building level that there was a major conflict at every passing period with students trying to get into those lockers, so it would specifically address an issue that they had heard about from the staff. He added that, in general, the move had been away from consolidated locker bays, from a contemporary design standpoint, into distributed lockers for those very reasons.
 - Mr. Scherb wanted to know if the Power Point presentation would be offered at the community meetings at the high schools, and he was told it would.
 - In response to Mr. Reberger's comments regarding wants and needs, Mr. Scherb shared his opinion that the secondary renovation project was going to be a hard sell. When Mr. Scherb saw moving the office at Northview, he shuddered. He compared it to remodeling an old house or old building where something is moved and the costs can quadruple. Mr. Scherb is not convinced that that's the right way to go yet. Although the board members will be the ones to vote, it will ultimately be the taxpayers to whom the board members have to sell the idea. When he sees \$20

million at Northview and moving an office and building a gymnasium, he believes it will be a tough sell.

- Mr. Scherb stated that he was a little disappointed that he didn't see a whole lot about the vocational programs or the tech programs. He was hoping there would be more emphasis on those, which Governor Pence has been promoting. Mr. Tyler pointed out that there are dollars that are being carried for all of those areas, and quite a few improvements would be made mechanically at Northview and some mechanical as well at Clay City. Those areas will be looked at as they get more into the detail of what types of improvements will be made. Technology would be key to a number of labs that are not currently properly outfitted for instruction.
- While acknowledging that he believes a lot of the things are needed, Mr. Scherb stated that he would need to study this a little more.
- Mr. Hill
 - Mr. Hill shared his concern that a lot of wire would have to be moved and reassigned, especially at the high schools. Mr. Tyler reassured Mr. Hill that there would be technology specialists that would be involved in the project to address just that.
 - Regarding the HVAC systems, Mr. Hill wanted to know if consideration had been given to taking advantage of the fiber network and having all the HVAC systems set up to where Mr. Howard could monitor and regulate them from one location. Mr. Tyler replied that Mr. Howard was moving through a process to add temperature controls to the management side through the buildings so that he can have remote access. Mr. Howard added that basically that is in place in all of the buildings now, but the systems at North Clay and Clay City need to be integrated.
- Mr. Reberger
 - Mr. Reberger asserted that the really tough part would be determining the difference between wants and needs. There were things that were prioritized as "wants" that one would have a hard time arguing against, but they had to prioritize those things. As they go from building to building and talk to the community about this, some may think an item that was ranked as #15 in one building ought to be ranked #1. He noted that the staff had been involved in every building and the administration had been involved. Also, the gentlemen from both Fanning Howey and Garmong are professionals, and they build buildings all the time. Mr. Reberger knows, from his standpoint, that the school corporation needs to do everything that can possibly be afforded that the community will accept. With that being said, academics are the first priority.
 - Following Mr. Scherb's response to his comments, Mr. Reberger shared his opinion that the renovation project has to be approached from the standpoint that this is the scope that was determined after several meetings, as a starting point, to try to stay somewhere near the budget that it is felt is acceptable for the community. The community meetings are not being held to tell people what is going to be built; rather, during the meetings, the community is going to be asked for its input. If they say

what Mr. Scherb believes they will, the board will go back to the drawing board. Mr. Reberger pointed out that there would be no reason to have the meetings if the board was not going to listen to what the people say.

Mr. Lance Gassert of Garmong Construction Services spoke regarding potential costs of the project. The information provided by Mr. Gassert was a part of the Power Point presentation that will be included with the official minutes.

Mr. Brian Kooistra of Garmong Construction Services concluded the Power Point presentation by reviewing items that had been determined to be best handled as Capital Projects. This information was also a part of the Power Point presentation that will be included with the official minutes.

Following the completion of the Power Point presentation, Mr. Reberger asked Director of Business Affairs Mark Shayotovich what this proposed \$35 million project would do to the tax rate. Mr. Shayotovich replied that, depending on the way it is structured, it would be the plan for it to not affect the tax rate at all. Mr. Reberger asked to confirm that it would be physically possible to do this project at this cost and not raise the annual tax rate, which Mr. Shayotovich confirmed. In response to this, Mrs. Adams and Mr. Scherb protested, with Mrs. Adams wanting to know for how long and Mr. Scherb cautioning Mr. Reberger to be careful with that statement because the tax rate would not be raised, but it would be continued. Mr. Shayotovich projected it would stay at the current rate for approximately fifteen to sixteen years.

Mrs. Adams noted that she had been surprised to see things such as outdoor bleachers for football and Astroturf wrapped up in a project like this. To her, those seemed to be things that would be taken care of in-house. Mr. Kooistra clarified that the football bleachers had been listed within the Capital Projects classification. There had been a line item for bleacher replacement at Northview; however, that had been in response to the main gymnasium and the telescoping bleachers within the gym. During the staff meetings, there had been concerns in regard to the steepness of the bleachers, the handicap accessibility, and the lack of handrails on the aisles. Those bleachers were being carried as an alternate for the renovation project. Mrs. Adams asked whether the bleachers were currently ADA-compliant, and Mr. Howard stated that the bleachers had been compliant at the time of installation; however, there are no ramps or handrails, and with the width of the aisles and the current installation, they can't be modified.

Mr. Kooistra concluded his presentation by calling attention to the schedule of activities remaining in connection with the renovation project. Scheduled at the time of the meeting were community information sessions at Clay City and Northview/North Clay in October pending board approval, the project scope being refined based upon input from the community meetings, the November 12 regular session board meeting during which the revised project scope will be reviewed, and the December 10 regular session board meeting during which the 1028/Preliminary Determination Hearing would occur, if appropriate.

At this point, Superintendent Fritz stated that the community meetings to be held at Clay City and Brazil to discuss the building needs and to continue to refine the scope of the project would be the next step in the process. Approval was recommended to allow the administration to schedule these meetings.

Mrs. Adams moved to establish the community information sessions at Northview/North Clay and Clay City. Mr. Reberger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

IV. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

The meeting was audio recorded and copies may be requested by contacting the Central Administrative Office.