

Please note: The Facility Committee Meeting minutes are not representative of official Somerset Board of Education action. Appropriate board of education action will be taken at the regularly scheduled Somerset Board of Education meeting.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING*
DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008
6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Tim Witzmann.*

Roll Call was taken. Members present Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, and Allison Klis. Others present: Randy Rosburg, Dave Durand, Marie Colbeth, Sharon Germain, Jerry Sullivan, Kathy Brakke, Lorri Baillargeon, Dave Newman, Bruce Martell, Ron Berg, Cherrie Wood, Shawn Madden, Ryan Sicard, Tammie Wishard.

To plan for the April 1st general election: Witzmann reviewed the timeline involving a referendum. He stated he wanted to be sure the committee had enough time to prepare its presentation to the January 21st meeting of the full board.

Committee discussed recommending a long-term space solution to included cost and mill rate data. Committee reviewed and discussed difference between Options E2a, E2b, and E3a and E3b and E3c. Committee also reviewed budget summary info with regard to those options, with much of the focus on Options E2b and E3c. Witzmann asked for feedback from community members in the audience. Durand said he felt the community would be supportive of additions only, not a new building, felt the current economy could also be a factor in the vote. Colbeth stated she had heard the same thing from others. Committee members concerned with cost of additions and having to go to referendum again in just a few years as additions would not handle long-term projected enrollment; core facilities such as lunch and hallway areas and phy ed areas would still have over-crowding issues. He felt wise decisions with regard to district space concerns needed to be made looking out at ten-year enrollment projections.

Committee then reviewed preliminary options summary report. Witzmann said he did not want the committee to get too hung up on grade numbers and that they should look at the full capacity. Committee discussed going with full ten year planning vs. building in stages. Witzmann felt that additions to the high school building would not be cost effective as the original building was not designed to support 700 students; he said putting a band-aid on the issue will instill pressure on core facilities of the building. He said community members have often told him the former

Somerset Board of Education had the “foresight” to purchase additional land for the district. Witzmann felt the board may have to make decisions where the community does not have same foresight, but it is the responsibility of the board to try to get that foresight understood by community members.

Committee reviewed “Summary of Finance Options” prepared the week before by Lisa Voisin of Robert W. Baird Co. They noted Voisin had applied the different options to five models. Community members felt others in the community would not see another large gymnasium as a need. Witzmann asked the committee members if they felt that building a gymnasium or an auditorium is a luxury or a need. Klis stated she would support an auditorium before a gymnasium. Witzmann asked Hanley other compromises could be made with regard to additions. Hanley stated key is to size core facilities to accommodate classrooms; he said putting in additions in every direction is difficult, and that it would be easier to expand classrooms but not core facilities.

Witzmann asked the committee if it was ready to make a recommendation to the full board. Klis asked to look at the option that included only additions. After discussion, committee asked Hanley to bring information for breaking down areas such as keeping an auditorium vs. gymnasium, additional classrooms, etc. to the January full board meeting. Hanley said he will provide packages with those breakdowns. Committee will recommend to the full board Option E2b, for \$36.4 million, which includes a new high school building with a capacity of 700 students; in addition the committee would like to have information on what is included in the high school and the cost difference between types of gyms and auditorium size, including the cost of a high school with full phy ed sports gym, smaller gym and auditorium. The recommendation will present three cost options to the January board of education meeting. Rosburg stated that a dollar amount needs to go to bond council no later than Feb 16th.

Cherrie concerned that this option does not support growth of elementary. Committee discussed moving of grades to other buildings.

Recommend a Referendum Communication Plan: TW felt not enough time to come up with a recommendation for a communication plan. RR wanted to know what plan is—going out to community, hosting monthly meetings; flyers depicting municipal meetings, brochures, etc. TW wants RR to put in draft form...include timeline for board to see. AK said to bring this information to the board for discussion and addition of their thoughts. RR will do.

Committee discussed plans for space needs for the 2008-2009 school year to recommend short-term space solutions. The committee reviewed this need based on elementary projections for a need for three additional classrooms next school year. Rosburg stated that direction is needed to either lease space or bring portables on campus. Germain asked to see lease spaces. Committee recommends that the board of education directs the district administration team to look at the elementary space needs including portables for the 2008-09 school year and bring forward their suggestions to the board.

Recommend the replacement of the High School Chiller: Rosburg stated this past fall the one compressor system of the high school chiller went bad. After having service repair look at the chiller, they found the second compressor is wearing out as well. Rosburg said replacing both compressors in the system would cost \$55,000 to \$65,000 to rebuild or replace, with a warranty of only two to five years. He said a brand new chiller, like the one at the elementary school, would cost approximately \$100,000, \$120,000, or \$160,000 based on three different bid proposals from vendors. Warranty and longevity much greater on a new system than on a replacement or rebuild system. Witzmann would like Vonasek and Schieffer to review the proposals. Rosburg said he will get in touch with them to have their HVAC person look over the situation. Committee's recommendation would be replacement at lowest bid price dependent upon V&S's review. The timeline for the chiller is to have it up and running before May 1st.

Klis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. with second by Moulton. Meeting adjourned.

*A quorum of the Board of Education may be in attendance.