

School Board Work Session Minutes
October 5, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodney Kibler, Chairman; Leah Paladino, Member; Sharon Mack, Member; Harry Daniel, Member; Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Kristie Spencer, Business & Facilities Director

MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: N/A

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Collier, Vice-Chairman

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: N/A

Dr. Whitmarsh, Ms. Spencer, and school board members discussed a prioritization plan of the facilities project.

Dr. Whitmarsh asked for any thoughts from the school board members regarding the facilities project.

Mrs. Mack stated the top priority is the high school cafeteria. Mrs. Mack commented that the high school cafeteria needs to have a substantial impact and done well.

There was board discussion regarding the central kitchen. Mrs. Mack commented on the central kitchen. Mrs. Mack stated she is not sold on the idea of the central kitchen. Dr. Whitmarsh asked if there were any particular reasons about not being sold on the idea of the central kitchen. Mrs. Mack commented that preparing food multiple days in advance is not appealing and there is no savings on the number of employees.

Dr. Kibler explained there are no other small school districts that have a central kitchen, which is why he is not in favor of the idea.

Ms. Spencer stated Mr. Powell of VMDO had commented that the schools could have kitchens that could be converted into classrooms if the school board wanted the central kitchen at a later time.

Mr. Daniel added that he was unsure about the central kitchen as well.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated if the idea of the central kitchen was more intriguing before the dollar amount was presented. Dr. Whitmarsh added that she does not think the central kitchen idea is off the list of projects, but not a top priority at this point. Mr. Daniel suggested looking at the central kitchen when the school board is ready to build a new school. Dr. Whitmarsh explained that the reason the central kitchen was addressed was due to the space limitations on the Stanardsville campus. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she sees the benefits and the reservations with having a central kitchen.

After discussion of the central kitchen, there was board discussion of financing for the facilities project. There was board discussion of using retiring debt to assist in financing the facilities project. Dr. Whitmarsh commented that her overall thought is the more that can be done without asking for additional funds, the better off the school division is and the more support the school division will gain. Dr. Whitmarsh stressed that the school division needs “wins”. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the community members need to see the impact of the project and taxes were not raised to complete it.

Mrs. Paladino questioned why the school board is concerned about starting any of the projects except for the high school cafeteria. Mrs. Paladino commented the high school cafeteria would not require any capital outlay from the Board of Supervisors and the community could see something happening that is good for the school.

Dr. Kibler commented about the school board demonstrating not to tax the community and cover all the cost with the capital outlay funds to cover the interest. Ms. Spencer commented that the retiring debt is staggered and is not all available at one time. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the projects could be staggered over time. Dr. Whitmarsh suggested that the school board commit to three projects and staggering them.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated her initial thought is starting with high school cafeteria/media center, then look at parking at the Stanardsville campus. Dr. Whitmarsh also suggested obtaining another study of the traffic flow and parking. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the school board needs to consider purchasing land for a future elementary school.

There was discussion among the school board members regarding student parking such as bringing in a civil engineer to gather more information about the parking at the Stanardsville campus and discussed where to park buses that would allow more parking for students and staff.

The school board discussed property needed for a new elementary school.

After discussion, the school board stated the projects that they wanted to be considered in phase I of the facilities project. Those projects consisted of the high school cafeteria/media center; the middle school cafeteria; and parking.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated the school board needs to discuss the list of priorities with the Board of Supervisors once it is adopted and discuss the next steps of moving forward with the process.

Dr. Kibler asked Dr. Whitmarsh if a proposal is need for the October 12, 2016 school board meeting. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she would like VMDO to present a proposal at the school board meeting.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated there are more projects to discuss. Mrs. Paladino suggested grouping the other projects into phase II and phase III categories. Dr. Whitmarsh also suggested putting the projects on the Capital Improvement Plan. Dr. Whitmarsh stressed there is a need for a long term plan.

Mrs. Paladino questioned what the long term plan is for Nathanael Greene Primary and Nathanael Greene Elementary. Dr. Whitmarsh stated Nathanael Greene Elementary would have to be added on to. Dr. Whitmarsh stated this project would coincide with a new elementary school project. Dr. Whitmarsh stated Nathanael Greene Primary and Elementary would be combined and the primary school building would be repurposed.

Dr. Kibler adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Clerk