



INFORMAL MINUTES

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the actions taken by the School Board and to provide a listing of the reports given. Anyone interested in viewing the full meeting, please visit the School Board website at <https://www.pps.net/domain/219>.

A meeting of the board's Policy Committee meeting came to order at 4:33 pm at the call of Committee Chair Andrew Scott. This meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19 and streamed live at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ppscomms/videos>

There were present:

Committee Members

Andrew Scott - Chair
Scott Bailey
Amy Kohnstamm

Staff and Other Attendees

Kara Bradshaw - Executive Assistant, Board of Education
Julia Brim-Edwards – Board Director
Marina Creswell – Senior Director, School Modernization
Dr. Gregg Cuellar – Deputy Superintendent, Instruction & School Communities
Joe Echeverri –Bassetti Architect
Lorna Fast Buffalo Horse – Principal, Alliance at Meek
Jonathan Garcia – Chief Engagement Officer
Guadalupe Guerrero - Superintendent
Claire Hertz - Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations
Jamie Hurd – Project Manager
Dan Jung - Chief Operation Officer
Joe LaFontaine – Regional Superintendent
Dani Ledezma – Senior Advisor, Racial Equity and Social Justice
Eilidh Lowery – Board Director
John Lyons – Senior Project Manager
David Mayne – Bond Communications Manager
Rita Moore – Board Director
Parker Myrus – District Student Council Representative
Rosanne Powell - Senior Board Manager
David Roy – Interim Senior Director, Communications
Amy Ruiz – Communications
Elisa Schorr – Area Senior Director, High School Programs
Stephanie Soden-Back - Chief of Staff
Tae Thomas – District Student Council Representative
Dr. Luis Valentino – Chief Academic Officer
Jackson Weinberg – District Student Council Representative
Courtney Westling – Director, Government Relations
Dana White – Director, Planning & Property Management
Korrina Wolfe – Area Senior Director, Multiple Pathways to Graduation
Don Wolff – Chief Technology Officer

Multiple Pathways to Graduation (MPG)

Jamie Hurd provided an overview of the Multiple Pathways to Graduation program, including a timeline of the MPS plan in relation to the Benson construction. Joe Echeverri shared that the plan was developed by holding stakeholder meetings and took the views shared in those meetings into consideration, adding that they tried to include equity, inclusiveness, trauma-informed design and social emotional supports. Mr. Echeverri provided an overview of the proposed master plan layout. He shared that there is an increase of square footage because they added teen parent services and a fitness area. Ms. Hurd shared

that even with the increased square footage they were able to keep the cost about the same as they were originally approved. She added that there has been a request to increase the gym seating by 100 seats and that will increase the overall cost, but that is within the 10% contingency. Korrina Wolff shared that they focused on the design being welcoming to the community and thoughtful regarding where in the building services were placed with intergenerational services being provided, and that they are looking forward to having space for regular physical exercise, which was something that the schools did not have in the past.

Director Brim-Edwards shared that the Design Advisory Group (DAG) members shared that they felt listened to and that they are happy that they came up with a design that meets the variety of specific needs that the students in multiple alternative programs need.

Director Bailey asked for more information regarding the increased gym seats. Mr. Echeverri shared that the gym is a high school size gym, but there are not as many seats, and the extra seats will provide opportunity for larger events, whether sports or in school or after school activities. Ms. Hurd added that they were asked to build a school for five hundred students and adding the seats aligns with that request.

There was a question regarding the parking lot, and Echeverri elaborated that they are creating more controlled parking which will serve both Benson and the Multiple Pathways to Graduation (MPG) programs.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend the MPG Master Plan to the full board for consideration.

Bond Planning

Dan Jung shared that because of the change in the state of the economy, a smaller short term economy recovery bond, that addresses only high priority items, is being considered. Director Scott shared that the district has a really strong long term plan that is comprehensive. He noted that the pre-Covid plan was robust, and now they would like to request a smaller amount at the same rate, to continue the work.

There was board discussion regarding whether to go out for a shorter term resiliency bond or keep moving forward with an 8 year bond.

Staff provided an overview of the new proposal by category. Dr. Luis Valentino shared that the curriculum goals have not changed, which is student and adult learning, and that they are requesting resources to purchase a math program and K-3 Language Arts foundational curriculum. Don Wolff shared that the focus has always been on what a 21st century school should look like, including increased resiliency, but that the timeline has been accelerated because of Distance learning. He added that there are some components that can be pulled out to wait for a bond down the road but that the majority stays the same. Dr. Gregg Cueller shared that it is important that we prioritize curricular resources for students to make sure they are receiving optimal instruction from teachers and a robust curriculum. It was noted that without the bond there would be few avenues to provide these services given the budget shortfall.

The Board provided feedback. It was noted that it is pertinent that the completion of Benson, which includes the MPG project, be on the next bond, as the project is already started. It was noted that it will be important to be clear about what the plan will be for specifically, and what will still be on the agenda for the proposed bond that follows the resiliency bond. Clarification on the actual duration that is being looked at and a dollar amount was requested. There was a question regarding whether the cost of construction was anticipated to go down with the change in the economy. Director Scott shared that there are three issues to be considered, including what scopes of work would be included, in addition to length and dollar amount.

Courtney Westling shared the plan for communication and engagement, stating that the next meeting would be tentatively planned for May 19 which will give staff time to draft options, which will be informed by the racial equity goals and Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) lens. A communications plan will also be brought to the work session which will include the plan for engagement, which will at least include discussions with ongoing community stakeholders, community surveys, and town halls. She added that while the bond does not have to be filed until August, it would advantageous to move as soon as possible.

Public Comment

Public Comment was submitted in writing and has been posted to the committee materials webpage.

Committee Chair Andrew Scott adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Submitted by:



Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant
PPS Board of Education