

Board of Education Long Range Facilities Planning Committee

Minutes

January 12, 2017

Present for the meeting were Mr. Darin Preis, Ms. Jan Mees, Mr. Jonathan Sessions, Ms. Linda Quinley and Dr. Peter Stiepleman. Other members of administration joined the meeting as well as Mr. Jack Dillingham of Piper Jaffray and Ms. Toni Stegemann of Gilmore and Bell. Mr. Preis called the meeting to order.

After a correction, the minutes of the September 13, 2016 meeting were approved.

The administration shared information relating to enrollment data beginning with the 2016-17 school year showing a flattening of the elementary enrollment and growth in middle school populations. After discussion, the committee expressed consensus on middle school population growth as a priority. The new school could result in elimination of mobile classrooms at Gentry Middle School (13) and Smithton Middle School (11).

The committee discussed an accelerated timeline option for the planned new middle school with a desire for an August 2022 opening to relieve overcrowding. This would create delays in the next elementary school additions, which were prioritized by the committee as Lee Elementary and Battle Elementary schools. The Lee need relates to the current use of seven mobile classrooms, while the Battle need relates to growth in new housing and housing permits.

The acceleration of a middle school in the south part of town would relieve Gentry Middle School most significantly and could reduce the scope for or eliminate the addition of planned kitchen space at Gentry Middle. The current projected cost of the GMS kitchen project is \$2.3 million.

The committee expressed a need to continue to plan for athletic facility equity at the middle schools, with an estimated cost of \$1.65 million in total. This would need to be delayed in order to accelerate the construction of the middle school.

Mr. Oestreich shared some project priorities for current facilities, noting the Russell roof as a critical project.

Ms. Stegemann reviewed the bond ballot language currently authorized and unissued, sharing that the language does allow for acquisition of land, planning, design and construction of a new facility.

Dr. Stiepleman asked the committee members to rank the priorities among the following: New middle school, elementary additions at Lee and Battle, GMS kitchen remodel and expansion, and middle school athletic field equity projects. The tally resulted in prioritizing in this stated order.