

**WEST JEFFERSON HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING
12-18-14**

Present:

*Debbie Pozycki, Chair
Dr. Mike Panza, Superintendent
Betsy Kane, Turner Construction
Larry Payne, WTW Architects
Doug Shuck, WTW Architects
Kieran Wilmes, Grimm+Parker
Anthony Lucarelli, Grimm+Parker
Janet Burkardt, Solicitor
Rich DeYoung, WTW Architects
Ryan Snodgrass, Dir. Of Facilities
Tracy Harris, Dir. Of Finance
Alan Caponi, Board Member Rep.*

*John Hosmer, Board Member Rep.
Chris Sefcheck, TJHS Principal
Greg O'Hare, Pleasant Hills
Keith Pancoast, Pleasant Hills
Kelly Magill, West Elizabeth
Thomas Risley, Jefferson Hills
Judy Holland
Shannon Holland
Tim Schumann
Alonzo Vielma
Jay and Doris Snyder
Vince Bianco*

*Taylor Kerns
Jason Vozar
Kathy Hannon
Michele Stoicovy
Suhail Baloch
John Rambo
Mimi Haley
Suzanne Downer
Lynne McCullough
Matt McCullough
Bonnie Dyer, Dir. Of Curriculum*

Dr. Panza opened the meeting at 5:30 P.M. and introduced everyone in attendance as there were a lot of new faces. Updates on the following topics were then discussed:

Traffic Study

- Dr. Panza stated that the report has been completed, and it is 314 pages long. It will be posted to the New High School website.

Geotechnical Study

- Mr. Snodgrass stated that Pedersen & Pedersen will get the site ready for the Geotechnical Study to begin.

Environmental Study

- Mr. Snodgrass indicated that the 1st phase of the study will take approximately three days, and the 2nd phase will take place on the 23rd or 24th of December.

Miscellaneous Studies

- Dr. Panza received a cost of \$4,500 for an Acoustic study of the gymnasium, media center, swimming pool area and cafeteria.

Video

- Dr. Panza indicated that most of the video was recorded today by teacher Stephen Lauso. Mr. Lauso will complete the video over the holiday break.
- The video is approximately 6 minutes long and will be put on YouTube when finalized/approved.

Website

- Mr. O'Hare and Mrs. Pozycki suggested putting a "click here" link on the District website underneath the picture of the New TJHS for easier access to the new site.
- Mr. O'Hare suggested putting graphics on the website indicating when the move-in date is expected to be and post-construction.
- Mr. O'Hare would like to have more detail on the new website indicating "why" the school board and Construction Committee believe we need a new high school as opposed to renovating the existing one. Need more details under the "Options" for the public. Mr. Snodgrass will put a list together with more specifics.
- The District's Master Plan is now on the website.

Miscellaneous

- Mr. Risley suggested the possibility of running tours through the existing high school for the public to see the condition it is in.
- A suggestion was made to put a flyer together on the New High School to put into local churches.
- Mrs. Pozycki recommended using a document-sharing program or drop-box so the committee knows when things are done or changed before the next meeting to give them time to digest the information.
- Need feedback on the open-concept cafeteria vs. traditional cafeteria and how the decisions were made.
- Need to have more meetings – not all need to be public – conference calls, webex, etc.
- WTW to decide how best to communicate more frequently; indicated that minutes need to be taken at all meetings – even if conducted via conference call.
- Need more consistency with what each space is called on the schematics.
- Lay down a framework as process for moving forward.

WTW Architects (Larry Payne)

- Progress meeting #3 discussed the schematic design from 10/10/14 – 1/27/15
- May have to change some meeting dates
- Active-learning classrooms: easy to rearrange furniture, students have ownership

District Offices – master plan recommendations

- Opinion of probable cost to renovate: Low: \$332,994, High: \$385,573
- Mrs. Pozycki indicated this topic was to be discussed in January.
- Mr. O'Hare would like to discuss the following at the next meeting: (a) Square footage: What do we need for future? Do we want people in a basement? Renovations and additions to the building. (b) ADA: <50% to bring to code. Do we have a building not ADA accessible? Operating costs. What is in the best interests of the District?
- Renovate existing building, build new, build integrally to new high school, renovate existing and add more space.
- Need to look at costs to see if District Office in the high school makes sense.
- Mrs. Pozycki would like to see the plan for the District Office to be incorporated back into the original schematic. Needs succinct information to be able to present to school board.
- Mr. O'Hare suggested that a rough-order magnitude of costs be completed.
- Mr. Wilmes said the District Offices will be put back onto the schematic but needs to know where.
- Mrs. Kane: It is not possible to get the maintenance costs of the current Administration Building for the past 3-5 years. This data cannot be captured. \$500K for maintenance of current building; \$800K for major renovations and enlarging existing building; \$2M if attached to new high school; \$3M if new stand-alone building. If new building, need to consider selling existing building, but how would we replicate the 5-bay garage? The land could be sub-divided or leased.
- Mrs. Pozycki: What is the perception of what people think about our existing Administration Building? Aesthetics of outside appearance? Add to cost of renovations.

Grimm+Parker (Kieran Wilmes)

- Last week, we discussed The Grid:
 - Smaller footprint
 - Less earthwork
 - More efficient
 - Investigations from 12/9/14: service end of building; foot traffic through student dining; bus turn around – avoid cars; District Office not on 2nd floor – possibly separate building; IT location; chemistry labs, special education; child development has own exterior door; site plan – basically intact except for driveways
 - Site circulation – cars: 350 parking spaces

- Site circulation – buses: secondary entrance; 30-ft wide drive in lower lot
- Outdoor spaces: learning, dining, etc.
- Mr. O’Hare: Northeast corner of site to add District Offices. Controlled entrance.
- Mrs. Haley asked when the District Office was added to the project, and Mrs. Pozycki stated that it was in the plan from day one but not discussed frequently at first because school is more important.
- Mr. DeYoung stated that they like to give items to the committee the day of the meeting so that they can be discussed then. Mr. O’Hare agreed but would still like to have the documents ahead of time.
- Behind stage area could be another location for Administration Building. Could the building be annexed? Could it be attached to Tech Ed or to the Black Box? Could it be two-story as long as it is ADA compliant?
- Do not want a public entrance from inside the high school. Keep main entrance separate from the high school but be prominent.
- Does not have to be square shaped.
- In the long run, need to do what’s best for the District.
- Kieran: The lower level will contain the garage, IT room, service area and mechanicals and will have its own parking spaces.
- Separate outside entrance to the nursery school. What about security?
- Mr. Sefcheck conducted survey on open-dining concept: 47% opposed, 38% for, 18% undecided. Will put together a schedule to experiment next year.
- Mrs. Pozycki: Can barriers be used for evening events so the public is not wandering through the building.
- Mrs. Pozycki suggests moving the teacher planning rooms so they are more centered among classrooms on same floor.
- Mr. Lucarelli explained that there will be planning rooms for teachers to hang coats and store personal belongings if they do not have their own classroom. Rooms not being used can be converted. Each classroom will have a closet or some place for coats, purses, etc.
- Upper Level: Classrooms are inter-changeable. Integrate student lounge with media center or Jaguar Den and Cafeteria to make a student “hub.”
- Entrance to the pool is on the lower level but seating on upper level.
- Two storage areas for chemicals – one in each hallway.
- Graphics lab moved to upper level. Dr. Panza would like them on main level by Arts classrooms. He also suggested moving the drama room to English room and making the drama room a graphics lab.
- Roof needs to be visually appealing because of topography.
- Present pictures of what building will look like from the outside – all views.
- Mr. Lucarelli would like to have meetings soon with each department head to put puzzle pieces together.

Dr. Panza recap

- What would District Office look like in three locations.
- New design based on our conversations
- Need District Office information on renovations and lifecycle
- Information to construction committee regarding fields vs. building
- Should have meeting 1st week of January even by phone
- Meeting with department heads 2nd week of January
- Regular meeting 3rd week of January to make decisions
- Present decisions to board 4th week of January
- Go through “list”

Mr. Lucarelli

- Precedent imagery
- Honor legacy of Thomas Jefferson
- What would Thomas Jefferson do?
- Visions of how education worked
- Blend past with the future
- Do not want cheap and cartoonish
- Colors, formality, symmetry, details
- Monument: plaque (need to relocate)
- Present 3D version

Final Recap

- Mrs. Pozycki suggested looking at the schedule for milestones and possibly adjusting our meeting dates to make sure they have the documentation ready for the next meeting.
- January 12: conference call
- January 13-14: teacher meetings
- January 15: regular community construction committee meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 5:30 P.M. in the TJHS cafeteria. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Zeleznick

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1.8.15