

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – September 12, 2007

Jean Isken asked the Board for an update on the facility plans. She questioned how the Board selected ABACUS to work on the project. Property & Finance Committee chairperson, Gene Dana stated that they offered to look at enrollment trends, and review statistical information at this time. **No other company gave a presentation to the committee.** Dr. Salkowski added that no project has been approved at this time and there is no cost to the district for providing facility options at this time. Mrs. Isken was given a marketing booklet from ABACUS to review.

Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting – May 21, 2008

Dr. Salkowski suggested the Board might be looking to do too much at one time. Possible planning for the future might include buying land now –adjacent to the present site for a future middle school, put an elementary of some sort in Belgium and renovate the present middle school to make it last for several more years. Chad Hoopman noted that to sell the referendum to the constituents, they should see the big picture on each option so the people can see which provides the most value to the district. Present the information to the public.

Minutes of Property and Finance Committee – June 12, 2008

Bob Heimerl stated that he had suggested several times the concept of a community committee, but that the board was not interested. Les added that since the communities don't agree, he didn't want community committee meetings to be merely "grip sessions". He added that the Board has to keep the process going.

Minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting – June 30, 2008

Three properties that are being considered include: 60 acres offered by Matt Teunissen west of the current school campus, 20+ acres offered by Mike Ansay west of the current Belgium cultural center project and 28 acres offered by Oyvind Solvang directly north of the existing high school.

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – July 9, 2008

Jeff Thiel asked when the decision was made to eliminate some of the properties on the list and not even have the board look at them. President Paul stated that he had made that decision after he had visited all of the sites and some were eliminated due to size or cost.

Minutes of Property and Finance Committee – July 23, 2008

The committee discussed the need for an electronic marquee in Belgium. After some discussion the committee agreed that the timing on this expense was not right and that consideration of a marquee should be postponed at this time. If a building were to be built in Belgium, it is something that could be tied in to the building costs.

Steering Committee September 9 th , 2008

It was noted that it is cheaper to build homes in Belgium than it is south of Belgium
We haven't realized all the effects of the new households. We need an accounting of kids
4 years old and younger.

Moderate growth would be 9% for 10 years Aggressive growth would be 19%

The last 5 years in Belgium have been way over aggressive growth

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – September 10, 2008

The elementary school debt will be paid off in 2010.

Steering Committee September 23 th , 2008

A new pool may be in excess of \$3 million.

Concern about separating kids

It's hard to have an appendage bigger than the body regarding Belgium in the district.

Consideration must be given to Belgium as a location eventually if not now.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting September 24, 2008

Mr. Watry asked what architectural firm the board was working with. Mr. Paul said
Abacus Architects, but that they haven't actually been hired to build anything at this time.
Mr. Watry asked how they were selected and why the Board did not consider Bray, who
built the high school. Mr. Paul stated that he was not part of the selection process, but that
several other firms had brought proposals to the Board when it was considering pursuing
long range facility planning.

Steering Committee October 7 th , 2008

A question was raised about the school board being in land negotiations and what effect
that has on the steering committee and their decisions. It was noted that the school district
is looking at land in both Cedar Grove and in Belgium and they were not in negotiations
but compiling information on their land options. It was also stated that a land purchase
should not have an effect on the steering committee decision. It was also noted that in the
study done of the current campus that the current campus is undersized and in need of
more land to support the campus.

Group #1 – Laura's group (Belgium Representative)

Option #1 – New K2 Elementary School

Advantages

School in Belgium

Can be built w/o disrupting students

Corrects space problems

Disadvantages

School in Belgium

The middle school is still old

House concept not achieved at M.S.

Exist. Elementary still has little kid stuff in
it

**Added staff, administration and custodial
cost**

Option #3 – New 6-8 Middle School

Advantages

Allows for expansion
House based curriculum
Separates M.S. from elementary
New Elem. layout in existing building
Good with the K-2, 3-5 combination
Allows for pool addition

Disadvantages _

Probably not in Belgium

Group #2 – Keith’s group (Cedar Grove Representative)

Option #1 – New K-2

Elementary School

Advantages

New Campus helps 10 yr. from now
Grade areas are separate
Does something in Belgium

Kids stay together

Public Library in Belgium

Disadvantages _

Duplicates Library, Cafeteria, etc.

Land issues “Where”

Current elementary is already configured for little kids

More transitions

Option #3 – New 6-8 Middle School

Advantages

5th at elementary
Nice plan for age grouping
Like plan layout
Good to add M.S. Tech. Ed.
More traditional transition
More room for expansion

Disadvantages _

No school for Belgium

More costly than other options

More transitions

Steve Shaw will gather general operating costs for the different options and configurations. Abacus also should investigate the cost difference of a new Middle School in Cedar Grove vs. Belgium.

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 8, 2008

John Thiele asked if the “Public Input” item of the agenda could be placed at the end of the meeting. He also stated that he did not agree with the way the Steering Committee handled the public input portion of its agenda. President Paul stated that the Steering Committee has its own set of meeting rules, separate from the regular meeting rules.

Steering Committee October 21 st , 2008

The steering committee is still on its timeline to make a recommendation to the school board in December and then possibly bring it to an April referendum.

Addendum to Meeting Recorded 112008

Question from Public: *pertaining to the 28 acre parcel of land with the connecting property line to the current school facility, I would appreciate that it be noted that it was I who posed the question of "how this land tract was going to be purchased if the April 08 referendum was to pass or if this same referendum was to fail."*

The school board will be purchasing a 28 acre parcel of land to the north of the school district w/ 1700 feet of connecting property line. The school board stated they did not inform the steering committee of this purchase because they did not want to sway their recommendation to the board. The board stated that the land purchase in Cedar Grove would be made no matter what the recommendation was from the steering committee. The current campus is undersized and the board does not want the current campus to become land locked.

It was noted that the Mike Ansay property was still available in Belgium and could be purchased if that was the direction of the steering committee and the referendum.

Steve Shaw handed out a break down of operational costs for the proposed options. Costs included the added expenses of duplication and added services for the different options. He stated the most costly options were splitting the kids because it created the most duplications between the schools. Steve stated that option #3 would be less expensive because the entire middle school would move into a new building and you would not need to duplicate services between the buildings.

It was decided that option #2 the (K5) 3 track elementary school be removed from consideration because it had the most operational costs.

Steering Committee November 11 th , 2008

Steve Shaw notified the steering committee of a new opportunity for a Belgium school. The owner of the now closed grocery store has offered his land of 11 acres and the building that is on that land to the school district for 3 million dollars. The current building on that site is a 20,000 SF building.

The question was raised if the school district was to use this opportunity would they be locked into putting an elementary school into that space and would that take the new middle school completely off of the table.

It was stated by a member of the school board that they are pushing to keep the M.S. at the current location because of the sharing opportunities with the H.S. i.e. tech. ed, track and athletic fields.

It was stated that the current site was 11 acres at this time but there may be an opportunity to purchase surrounding land.

The steering committee decided to table the discussion of the new building and its opportunities to the school district until Abacus completes a preliminary building analysis.

One of the school board members noted that it was necessary that the steering committee was meeting the 35% growth potential with the options they were looking at. It was also stated that the use of natural light is very important for any of the options.

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – November 12, 2008

John Thiele read a letter to the Board asking that public input at the end of the meeting still be considered. President Paul told him that this was still being considered and had not formally been acted on yet. Mr. Thiele also expressed his views on the closing of the Belgium Village Market and his opinion about which option he felt the Board should consider for the new school/referendum.

Cochairperson, Keith Isken stated that the steering committee has not been influenced by the school board during the course of verifying information and coming to decisions thus far. He reported that the Belgium Market opportunity was briefly discussed and that the architects will be looking at the building to see how it could be converted to a school. In closing he said that during the last two meeting there was good interaction with the school board members in attendance and that this will continue now until a decision is reached.

President Paul explained to visitors that this parcel of land is 28 acres, part of the Hickory Height development, west of the school property. The special meeting of the electorate will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. and will be advertised.

Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting – December 3, 2008

Chairperson Paul summarized how the Board of Education reached the decision to ask the electorate to approve the resolution to purchase property for the school district. He pointed out that a Long Range Plan Steering Committee has been working on the facility needs of the district and will be presenting a recommendation to the Board on December 10, 2008. He added that the purchase of this property is not linked to that recommendation.

Tim Hatfield – Village of Cedar Grove – asked about the timing of this land purchase. He wondered why the decision to purchase is coming so quickly, a week before a recommendation for the Long Range Plan Steering Committee is even heard. Mr. Paul said that there is a tax advantage to a 2008 purchase for the buyer and the seller. He added that the timing is merely coincidental to the upcoming recommendation.

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 10, 2008

Presentation of Steering Committee Findings and Recommendation. This item was tabled until the January board meeting

Steering Committee December 11 th , 2008

It was stated the current building may need expansion but we should investigate building a separate free standing tech ed. building.

It was noted that if the tech ed space was not contiguous it would be more difficult to monitor student activity between the two buildings. There is also a concern of toilets, and medical emergencies and the need of extra time between classes to get to and from building if a free standing building was the direction to go.

The steering committee voted and was 100% in favor of providing an addition or free standing building to support the needs of the tech ed. and art areas of the high school. The board will determine the appropriate method to achieve the districts goals for tech ed. and art.

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – January 14, 2009

Long Range Plan Steering Committee Co-Chairpersons Keith Isken and Laura Klingelhoets presented the committee's findings and its recommendation to the Board through a Power Point presentation. From the report ---“It is the recommendation of the Steering Committee that a new Middle School, Option #3, be built. While there were discussions with regard to grade levels included in this school (5-8 or 6-8) it was concluded that this would be a decision of the School Board. Along with this school, additions to the high school for Art and Tech Ed should be included. As stated above it also recommends that the pool be kept in district and the existing pool structure is remodeled rather than building a new pool addition.”

Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting – January 20, 2009

Approve Public Information Specialist Contract for Kit Dailey of RW Baird.

The board accept the recommendation from the Long Range Plan Steering Committee in general – including a new middle school, a pool of some form and Art/Tech Ed. facilities either with an addition to the HS or a separate building. Motion carried unanimously. President Paul added that this recommendation can be tweaked anyway the board wishes.

Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting – January 26, 2009

President Les Paul welcomed the people in attendance. Besides the land that was recently purchased in Cedar Grove by the district, he added he has been involved in a **firm negotiation process for land in Belgium that would be included in a referendum.**

Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting – January 27, 2009

He added that the land purchased adjacent to the campus had no bearing on where the steering committee was going with their recommendation and **that land has been secured in Belgium if that is the direction to go.**

Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting – February 4, 2009

Chad Hoopman stated that he was disappointed to hear that after the meeting in Belgium, the Belgium Village Board and the Chamber of Commerce united to say they wanted a school in Belgium and would not support anything else. Jim Lautenschlaeger noted that many Belgium parents say they will support a building whatever the decision on the location.

Jeff Thiel noted that too much sharing of teachers is needed to build the school somewhere else. President Paul noted that if an elementary school were built in Belgium, the Board would be back in 6-7 years asking for more money again.

Terry Eernisse pointed out that both the Board and Steering Committee came to the same conclusion and the economy has an influence on the decisions.

Minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting – February 5, 2009

Several board members meet with members of the Cedar Grove Village Board to discuss the retention pond on the newly purchased district property. Les Paul spoke on behalf of the School Board and said that there would not be a lot of money spent on the pond, as it is not a thing that educates the children. The size of the pond was discussed and it will be determined by how the property is altered – is there green space, parking lots, or athletic fields? Ken Hoopman suggested that if the School Board would donate the pond to the Village after completion, they would pay for the maintenance of it. The pond will not need to be changed until something is done with that district property.

Ken Hoopman also wanted to let the School Board know that 6 th Street will go through straight, it won't be jogged. Les Paul said that the school district can't afford to divert school district finances to put in sewer and water, curb and gutter on its side of 6 th Street.

The school district prefers to focus its finances on projects that have an educational benefit to the school system. Dan Zuelsdorf added **that school taxes are collected in Village of Cedar Grove, Town of Holland, Village of Belgium and Town of Belgium. How can we expect taxpayers outside of the Village of Cedar Grove to fund a capital project this is exclusive to the infrastructure within the Village of Cedar Grove limits.**

Steve Shaw asked if the Village Board would consider trading the school district property that the street would go through for the soccer field/softball diamond? Ken Hoopman

said the district was offered that property years ago, but the Village didn't sell it after they were told they could not have preferential access to use the diamond for the Little League program during the summer months. He added that the Village would not be interested in trading good land for a street.

The School Board agreed to meet again with the Cedar Grove Village Board after we have completed further conceptual discussion as a School District.

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – April 8, 2009

Jos. Schmitt as construction manager contractor for possible new middle school construction, current middle school renovation and tech. Ed. building upgrades.

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting – May 13, 2009

John Thiele introduced himself as Village of Belgium liason to the school board and offered assistance from the Village of Belgium to school organizations, such as the Media Club.

Referendum Planning Update. Steve Shaw reviewed why the Board needs to continue discussion on the referendum now. Points included: the condition of our current middle school is not improving; classrooms are physically too small, safety, health and ADA issues still remain due to the inability to monitor school entrances, a deteriorating HVAC system and doors and windows that do not keep Wisconsin weather outside; the elementary school continues to bulge at the seams, our newly hired art teacher will need to work from a cart; the pool is in “bandaide mode”; the Tech. Ed. facility is small and not capable of hosting current Tech. Ed. curriculum; at the town hall meetings there was support for building/additions identified in our surveys; if the economy improves and the Board wishes to move forward on a November referendum, the resolution should be made at the August board meeting; if the Board does not approve moving forward in November, the district will be better prepared when the Board feels the time is right. Bob Heimerl and Kurt Davis from Abacus Architects **presented information and drawings for possible locations for a new middle school, athletic fields and a Tech Ed. building. The ideal location for the middle school, according to Abacus, is in the southeast corner of the newly purchased property.** The board members discussed some of the pros and cons of this location. Other possible locations on current district property were also discussed. President Paul asked the board members to agree on a location so Abacus could begin putting together cost figures. **Chad Hoopman stated that he didn’t feel he could select a location tonight, as he had not seen these drawings before tonight and would like to review other options and get input from the building administrators involved. The Board will schedule a special meeting on Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. in the High School Library to continue building location discussion.**