

E-SPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: April 13, 2021 8:30 am in HT Edwards, Room 66 and by virtual attendance.

Attendees: Alex Sams Lara Mathes Rick Parker Mike Waldrip Andrew Malec
Erwin Greene Tad MacMillan Greg Davis Patricia Yager Xernona Thomas
Marsha Thomas John Gilbreath Troy Basset Gerald Arcscott

Staff Reports: Copies of the following were distributed:

- March, 2021 Meeting Summary
- April, 2021 SPLOST Monthly Report
- April, 2021 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- April, 2021 Construction Schedule
- February, 2021 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend
- February, 2021, 2020 SPLOST 5 Financials
- February, 2021 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections

New Members: Alex Sams welcomed Tad Macmillan and Erwin Greene to their first meeting as members of the COC.

West Broad Campus – Mr. Tommy Valentine, Executive Director of Historic Athens, attended as a guest. Mr. Valentine was concerned that, as a partner with the CCSD in the planning of West Broad, their voice was not being heard. The site is significant culturally, architecturally and archaeologically. It was probably one of the most significant sites in Athens which is currently under threat. He felt that the whole campus should be regarded as historical and not just some of the buildings. He had received advice that the two-storey building could be rehabilitated and felt that CCSD had not given sufficient attention to this. He urged that Barbara Black, the specialist architect with extensive experience of historical work, be appointed as the principal architect for the whole site. He also requested a letter for Barbara Black's opinion on the two-story building. Mr. Valentine also expressed the view that less consideration was being given to the historical aspects of this African American school than had been given to white schools, such as Chase and Barrow.

Mr. Gilbreath presented information showing the work that had been done in preserving historical aspects of Chase and Barrow, indicating that the same consideration was being given to West Broad. There are detailed engineering reports showing that the two-story building would require stripping back to the structural steel, then re-building, in order to comply with current exterior wall wind loading codes. This would be similar to what was done for HT Edwards. Some bracing/remedial work could possibly be done but this would result in rooms that are too small and ceiling heights that could not accommodate necessary ductwork for heating/ventilation. Additionally, even if the two-story building could be retained, the site could not then accommodate the necessary classrooms, playground space, parking, traffic and storm water management requirements. The current proposal is to construct a new building which will be architecturally sympathetic to the historic Minor Street building and renovate/restore the Minor Street structure. The sudden time constraint has arisen due to

CCSD receiving a grant for the operating costs of the facility which requires commencement by March 1, 2022. The Superintendent agreed to check if there is a possibility of that date being put back.

In general discussion it was noted that the primary requirement must be a facility that meets the educational requirements of the CCSD. However, it was essential that the expectations of the community should be managed and work was still required to publicize and explain the plans effectively. It was recognized that this proved difficult due to the inability to meet in person during the pandemic.

Cedar Shoals/Clarke Central Track-Field: The projects are complete. Final payments and paperwork need to be concluded. Mats for crossing the tracks have been delivered. Management of crossing the track is important to avoid any damage to the new track surface. Nothing more than a golf cart should be driven across the track/field. This has been explained to the Athletics Director and it is planned that there will be regular training to ensure that good practices do not lapse. This is likely to be made a requirement for external users of the facilities also, as a condition of their use.

Board HQ: Quotes for demolition and abatement work are expected this week and then quotes for the remaining work by the end of the month. We will then be in a position to assess the cost of the proposed works versus the budget and report to the Board.

Clarke Middle School: The next LBC meeting, to consider design charrettes, is planned for April 27 at 5.30pm. It will be in-person and virtual.

School C: Student enrollment numbers and County issued occupancy certificates are being monitored. At this stage there is no justification to proceed with School C.

West Broad Campus: The architect is developing designs following the last LBC meeting and a further meeting is likely to be held on April 21.

Facilities Review: The five-year plan for the Department of Education has been finalized. The state organized independent panel have endorsed the plan and issued their report which will be considered at the April 15 Board meeting.

Transportation & Technology: As a result of additional State funding, the purchase of four more propane powered buses is being recommended to the April 15 Board meeting. This entails use of a further small part of the SPLOST allocation for buses.

COC Membership: Alex Sams encouraged COC members to seek out other candidates to join the Committee. He also welcomed any feedback from the two new members about the appointment process.

Sales Tax Revenue: The February figure was \$2.09m, which was the 10th month in succession that the figure had exceeded \$2m.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

May 11, 2021

June 8, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.