

## ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** August 10, 2021 8:30 am in HT Edwards, Heritage Conference Room and by virtual attendance.

**Attendees:** Alex Sams            Rick Parker            Nancy Hart            Smith Wilson            Mike Waldrip  
Andrew Malec            Lara Mathes            Erwin Greene            Tad MacMillan            Greg Davis  
Patricia Yager            Dexter Fisher            John Gilbreath            Troy Basset            Gerald Arscott

**Staff Reports:** Copies of the following were distributed:

- July, 2021 Meeting Summary
- August, 2021 SPLOST Monthly Report
- August, 2021 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- August, 2021 Construction Schedule
- June, 2021 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend
- June, 2021, 2020 SPLOST 5 Financials
- June, 2021 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections

**West Broad Campus** – A report is being presented to the next BOE meeting recommending the appointment of the CM at Risk contractor and the abatement/demolition contractor. Upon BOE approval the abatement/demolition contractor will immediately begin mobilization. The plan is to proceed with the project as approved by the BOE in September, 2019. The options of retaining use of buildings in addition to Minor Street have been examined and rejected. This would cost an additional \$3.5m which would result in either the Cedar Shoals Fieldhouse or the HT Edwards Culinary kitchen being delayed. The costing involves retention of the external appearance of the buildings. Another issue is the need to provide enclosed, air conditioned ramps between the buildings which entail a considerable slope. The Director of Early Learning has indicated that this would be a significant obstacle to operation of the facility, with the need to move children in cribs and/or strollers and the moving of food carts along those ramps. Additionally the second floor of the two-storey building cannot be used for children, so would be largely wasted space.

The additional time for design and construction would add a minimum of 6 months to the project and would jeopardize the Early Learning grant.

**Board HQ:** Abatement measures are completed and demolition work is almost finished. The old elevator is being removed and work is starting on preparations for the new elevator. Electrical work is being done and ductwork is being installed in the chapel. The chapel windows are being retained and repaired as necessary. Windows in the other buildings are being replaced with a similar design style, matching the existing windows for each building. The preservation architect is advising on the historic aspects of the chapel. The project remains on budget and a mid-December finish is anticipated. Quotations for appraisals of the three houses are being obtained with a view to selling Rogers Hall and Mitchell House with newly defined property lines and for Ellard Hall to be sold and removed from the site. Proposals will be submitted to the Fiscal Responsibility Committee then to the BOE. Although not currently included within the approved project, it is anticipated that if Ellard Hall is removed, a new Parent Information Center will be built to replace it. The need for this to be separate from the

main reception has been demonstrated again recently with over-crowding at the HT Edwards facility with parents registering their children.

**Clarke Middle School:** The next Local Planning Committee meeting is set for August 31 at 5:30pm in the school media center. The architect will bring forward renderings following the last LPC meeting and the design charrette exercise. Discussions are taking place with the Principal considering the requirement for temporary classrooms during the works. This is likely to be required regardless of the exact location of the new buildings on the site.

**School C:** Following receipt of the risk hazard assessment of the suggested “swap” site, that possibility is regarded as “off the table”. Enrollment numbers will continue to be monitored, but a substantial increase would be required/anticipated to justify proceeding with the new school. With the move of HQ staff currently based at the Whitehead Road Annex to Prince Avenue a further eight classrooms will become available for Whitehead Road school which impacts the need for School “C”.

**Cedar Shoals Field-House:** Preliminary drawings are being prepared by the architect for further discussion with the school. A further survey is required to determine the stormwater implications of the new building.

**Early Learning Center Kitchen Extension:** Work is in progress with the internal demolition completed. A temporary serving line has been established to maintain the food service. New food service equipment is on a 12 week delivery timeline. All approvals have been received. Work will continue in close liaison with the ELC to minimize disruption. The reason for this work is to remove ELC food preparation from the HT Edwards kitchen, so that can be re-designed as a full Culinary Kitchen for student training.

**Transportation & Technology:** Five propane powered buses, partially funded by ESPLOST 5, were delivered in June. A further four buses are due for delivery in October.

**COC Membership:** Alex Sams encouraged COC members to seek out other candidates to join the Committee.

**ESPLOST 6:** Andrew Malec will lead the COC promotion of the ESPLOST 6 referendum. Alex Sams and others will brief him on the methods adopted for previous referendums. The referendum question was approved by the BOE on August 5 and now gets passed to the County Board of Elections for inclusion in the November ballot. There are a number of time critical steps that have to be followed.

**Sales Tax Revenue:** The June figure was \$2.43m, continuing the trend of \$2.4m per month for the fourth month. The final state capital outlay sum for Hilsman, of \$574, 115, has also been received. The total capital outlay receipts for ESPLOST 5 are \$9.8m.

### **Future Meetings**

Future meetings are scheduled for:

September 14, 2021

October 12, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.