

ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 14, 2021 8:30 am in HT Edwards, Heritage Conference Room and by virtual attendance.

Attendees: Alex Sams Nancy Hart Mike Waldrip Andrew Malec Lara Mathes
Erwin Greene Tad MacMillan Greg Davis Allison Wright Dexter Fisher
John Gilbreath Troy Basset Gerald Arscott

Staff Reports: Copies of the following were distributed prior to the meeting:

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

West Broad Campus – The BOE meeting on September 9 approved the appointment of Grahl Construction as the CM at Risk contractor but did not approve the abatement/demolition contractor. Prior to the meeting Historic Athens circulated a document with selective extractions from an open records request that appeared to have swayed board members. That selection was a distortion of the true record. Historic Athens appears to want to preserve the whole campus, which is incompatible with creating a viable early learning center on the site. Prior to the BOE meeting, on September 1 a detailed presentation was made to the Board combined with a community meeting giving the pros and cons of the proposed “2 building plan” and of the second option of retaining the Campbell Lane building (the “3 building plan”) and the reasons why the 2 building plan was being recommended. Those now protesting the proposal did not attend that meeting, where there was general support. Then on September 2, there was the BOE work session at which West Broad was on the agenda. Following the board meeting decision the Superintendent has called further staff meetings to determine how to progress the project. The COC discussed submitting a letter to the BOE supporting the Superintendent’s proposal, but decided to wait until the Superintendent’s staff meeting had taken place.

Board HQ: Work is progressing well. Windows are being delivered this week; ductwork and electrical installations are being roughed in; ceiling panels for the chapel are about to be delivered; the main HVAC unit is due for delivery in mid-October. Discussion have been held with a sound/lighting consultant for the chapel. A specification will be developed for that work to be bid. Appraisals are being sought for two properties with a view to seeking BOE approval for their sale. The third structure Ellard Hall property needs significant abatement work for lead and asbestos; is not ADA compliant; has significant foundation issues. These issues, together with roof and HVAC means it is not viable to make it usable for the Parent Information Center and why it is likely to be proposed that it be sold to be removed off site if possible. 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. It is anticipated that staff will be moved to the new HQ in mid-December.

Clarke Middle School: At a recent Local Building Committee the architect presented three schemes. The Principal and LBC will provide feedback on these. In the meantime the architect will develop preliminary prices. Because of the site, and the occupation of the current building during construction, the new construction will have to be on a phased basis and temporary classrooms will be required. COC was assured that the plans are fully compliant with the archaeologist's advice concerning the neighboring cemetery. It was noted that the plans would not be detrimental to the creation of any direct link from CMS to Alps.

School C: 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: Designs are in progress and will be presented to the school when available. A property survey is being ordered for the site. This is required for stormwater management purposes, which will need to be reviewed because the new building increases the impervious surface at the school. Concern was expressed there is a perception in the community that Cedar Shoals facilities are not equitable to Clarke Central. It is understood that this arose from the additional cost of an eight-lane track at Clarke Central, and Cedar Shoals willingness to wait for a fieldhouse, which was their highest priority, but recent suggestions of further delay in order to provide additional funds for West Broad would not be acceptable.

Early Learning Center Kitchen Extension: Work is in progress. Interior floor slabs are being cut for new plumbing rough ins and external work is in progress involving relocation of utilities. Foundations for the new external walls will be next.

Transportation & Technology: Four propane powered buses, partially funded by ESPLOST 5, are due for delivery in October. Technology is primarily completion of infra-structure work.

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 Andrew have now met. It was noted that in most parts of the County the ESPLOST referendum would be the only matter on the ballot. The Carl Vincent Institute study, which makes reference to over 60% of sales tax coming from non-residents, will be sent to the COC.

Sales Tax Revenue: The July figure was \$2.44m, continuing the trend of \$2.4m per month for the fifth month.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

October 12, 2021

November 9, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.