

ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022 8:30 am in Room 136, BOE HQ, 595 Prince Avenue.

Attendees: Alex Sams Rick Parker Tad MacMillan Nancy Hart Andrew Malec
Allison Wright Xernona Thomas John Gilbreath Troy Basset Gerald Arscott

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

- February, 2022 Meeting Summary
- March, 2022 SPLOST Monthly Report
- March, 2022 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- March, 2022 Construction Schedule
- January, 2021 SPLOST 5 Financials
- January, 2021 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections
- January, 2021 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend

Summary of Last Meeting – Clarke Central Locker Rooms: Alex Sams wished to clarify that, rather than there being errors in the Odyssey article concerning the locker rooms (as stated in the Meeting Summary of the February 8 meeting), the point he was making was that, after reviewing the situation with the Athletics Director, the article was incomplete. In particular, the article did not mention that the work done on the boys’ facility was completed and funded by parents. It was not work done by the School District that had led to any potential inequity.

West Broad Campus – Dr. Thomas reported that she is in discussion with Board Members with a view to bringing a proposal to the BOE. If the District is to fund the property it can only be used for School District purposes. Any wider use would require management and operation by an outside body. If the property is not to be used for School District purposes the previous decision to allocate ESPLOST funds would need to be reversed.

Early Learning at Old Gaines – Work is progressing with contractors in place. The plan to have eight classrooms (64 children) ready by mid-April and a further eight (160 older children) ready for use at the start of the new school year.

Board HQ: Punch list items are being done and close-out documents are being prepared. The intention is to solicit proposals for the houses but, before this can be done, a surveyor needs to be employed to create the plats to distinguish the houses from the overall site. The zoning, which is currently “institutional” also needs to be addressed. It is likely that the property on Prince Avenue would be commercial and the one on Hill Street residential. A question was raised as to when COC interest would end, given that the whole site purchase was partly funded by ESPLOST, but the subsequent house disposals are a general fund matter. Dr. Thomas agreed to raise the question with the attorney.

Clarke Middle School: The Local Building Committee is meeting tonight at 6pm in the Media Center. Their main consideration will be the external design/materials/look. When that is determined, work will begin on the design of the external space.

School C/Easom: Student numbers continue to be monitored, along with new housing developments. Any growth in the School C area can be accommodated by use of the Whitehead Annex classrooms, vacated by HQ staff who moved to Prince Avenue.

Cedar Shoals Fieldhouse: Architect and site drawings have been submitted to the planners for approval. It is anticipated that bids will be issued mid-March with a view to reporting the outcome to the May Board of Education meeting.

Early Learning Center Kitchen Extension: The work is complete with the exception of delay in the supply of the electrical panel required for the new kitchen equipment. There are serious delays on the supply of these, which may also be an issue for the Cedar Shoals Fieldhouse.

HT Edwards Culinary Kitchen: The Advisory Committee met last week to finalize their vision for the Career Academy and work with the Heritage Committee that was involved with the renovation of the building. The plan is for the kitchen to be restaurant style, with meals prepared by students and made available to the public. This will require new equipment and re-design of the electrical system. With the delays in the supply of equipment, and the need for the Career Academy to clarify their precise needs, it is doubtful that this project will be completed this summer.

Facilities Review: Discussion are being held with Plant Services to review systems/equipment such as HVAC, security and emergency generators that may require replacement. As an example, the fire alarm at Chase was recently replaced. There is provision in ESPLOST 5 for "systems renewal" which is used for this. The need for scoreboards has also been raised.

Transportation & Technology: Five buses (ESPLOST contribution \$500k) are on order for anticipated delivery in June. Technology has about \$800k remaining in ESPLOST 5, which will be used for replacement devices.

COC Membership: Alex Sams encouraged a renewed effort to seek out candidates to join the Committee.

ESPLOST 6: The 75m bond sale is progressing.

Sales Tax Revenue: The January collection, received at the end of February, was \$2.49m. This is lower than recent months, but it is normal for the January collection to be lower.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

April 12, 2022

May 10, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.