

E-SPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: January 12, 2021 8:30 am by teleconference.

Attendees: Alex Sams Andrew Malec Lara Mathes Greg Davis Allison Wright
Patricia Yager Rick Parker Mike Waldrip Smith Wilson Xernona Thomas
Dexter Fisher John Gilbreath Troy Basset Gerald Arcscott

Staff Reports: Copies of the following were distributed:

- December, 2020 Meeting Summary
- January, 2021 SPLOST Monthly Report
- January, 2021 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- January, 2021 Construction Schedule
- November, 2020 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend
- November, 2020, 2020 SPLOST 5 Financials
- November, 2020 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections

Manufacturing Lab: The project is completed apart from some minor work such as assembling work tables. The fire marshal has signed off on the work. A meeting has been held with the teacher who was pleasantly surprised with the facility. Further grant funded equipment is being obtained, but that does not involve E-SPLOST

Public Safety Radio: The work is complete apart from linking the new systems to the fire alarms. The fire marshal has checked and approved the systems. Our own police staff have also checked the performance of the systems and found them to be good. Any new facility will need the same standard of coverage to be included.

Cedar Shoals Track: The track base coat is almost complete. It will take a further 3-4 days to finish the top coat then a further day to apply the markings. All this is weather dependent. They will then move on to Clarke Central once Cedar Shoals is complete. A second crew has been requested so that work can proceed at a faster pace than Cedar Shoals. There is close liaison with the Athletics Directors at both schools to ensure access to the fields as necessary.

Clarke Central Track/Field: In addition to the track installation the remaining work on the concession stand comprises internal painting, completion of electrical work and installation of equipment.

Board HQ: The current timing is that Piedmont will move out by April 1. A recommendation will be made to the Board of Education at the March BOE meeting to purchase the property from E-SPLOST 5 funds on April 1. This makes more sense than continuing to pay rent. Space planning with the relevant Department Heads is complete and the architect is in the process of preparing renovation documents/drawings. The approach is to fit staff into existing spaces and minimize any building changes unless absolutely necessary. Work will include external paving repairs and ADA requirements, replacement of windows in the Chapel and Commons buildings and the formation of a security vestibule. Work is estimated to cost \$7.5m. \$2.7m is available from the Capital Projects Fund (proceeds from the sale of Mitchell Bridge Road) and the balance will be met from E-SPLOST 5.

Clarke Middle School: The initial design meeting with the Local Building Committee (LBC) determined that new build was the preferred option. This was based on the curriculum program requirements, the survey results and the architect's analysis of renovation vs new-build costs. This has previously been reported to the COC and in the monthly reports to the Board. A report is being made to the January Board to approve a phase-out resolution for the school. This is required by the GA Department of Education as part of the Capital Outlay process, which provides state funding for the project. The next LBC meeting, to consider design style and site layout, is being planned and will likely be held virtually.

Alec Sams agreed to attend a session being held for new Board members in order to explain the role of the COC.

West Broad Campus: The District has determined that the highest priority for the site is for early learning with 100-120 children. The Director of Early Learning has applied for grants to fund the running costs of such a facility. This is consistent with the Board decision for the site, albeit with a smaller than originally anticipated facility due to the constraints of the site. The COC was concerned that this would mean that the facility was not available for community use because the furniture/set-up will be for young children and that the community would feel that they had been ignored. They urged the District to consider including an adult meeting room space in the Minor Street historic building, which would also be available for community use. The plan is to present the proposals to the Local Building Committee as soon as possible, although this is hindered by the lack of access that some have to the internet and the Covid pandemic.

School C: Student enrollment numbers for that area are being monitored. Work is also taking place with the County to obtain details of occupancy certificates as they are issued. This is a better indicator of likely school demand, compared with building permits. It was suggested that some of those permits are for student housing. Work is on-going with the county planners to obtain data which is a better indicator of likely demand for public schooling.

Facilities Review: E-SPLOST 6 questionnaires are being sent to Principals so that they can identify their needs with their LSGT. This information will be merged with building condition assessments to determine the E-SPLOST 6 program. Based on the ages of structures and systems Clarke Middle School, Cedar Shoals, Gaines Elementary and Alps Elementary are the highest priorities. This will raise the question of whether Whit Davis and Gaines should be expanded or Easom built. School C will likely be included. Consideration will also be given to schools with trailers. Consideration of Easom and School C also means that the General Fund implications of running those schools has to be considered. John Gilbreath explained that it is not permissible to use E-SPLOST funds for internet improvement outside of our facilities generally.

Transportation & Technology: Five buses have been ordered using E-SPLOST 5 funds of \$500k.

COC Membership: Alex Sams has one potential new member. He urged other COC members to continue the search for new members

Sales Tax Revenue: The November figure was \$2.2m, which means that the monthly figure since May has been over \$2m. Gerald Arscott has prepared the Sales Tax Commodity Report to the end of December and the COC asked for this to be circulated.

Future Meetings

February 9, 2021

March 9, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.