

ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: January 10, 2023 8:30 am in Room 123, BOE HQ, 595 Prince Avenue.

Attendees: Alex Sams Andrew Malec Smith Wilson Nancy Hart
Erwin Greene Leara Rhodes Tad MacMillan Greg Davis
Niki Jones Robbie Hooker John Gilbreath Troy Basset
Gerald Arscott

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

- December, 2022 Meeting Summary
- January, 2023 ESPLOST Monthly Report
- January, 2023 ESPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- January, 2023 ESPLOST Construction Schedule
- November, 2022 ESPLOST 5 Financials
- November, 2022 ESPLOST 5 Budget Projections
- November, 2022 ESPLOST 6 Financials
- November, 2022 ESPLOST 6 Budget Projections

West Broad Campus: The Superintendent is exploring potential uses for the buildings and site.

Early Learning at Old Gaines: The canopies were installed during the Christmas break. Playground equipment installation is complete, but some landscaping/sod installation/fencing remains to be done around the playground area. This will be completed as soon as the weather is appropriate.

Board HQ: The application to ACC for re-zoning the houses on Prince Avenue and Hill Street has been made. It appears from the county timetable that the Commission would consider the application in May. Discussions are being held with the Water Department to determine the location for the water meter for the house on Hill Street. The Prince Avenue house requires a separate sewer line also. The proposed solution for Ellard Hall is to sell the house on the basis of it being re-located and then replacing it with a new structure for student registration. The SPLOST Department is analyzing renovating/refurbishing the existing property vs replacing it with a new facility.

Clarke Middle School: The December Board meeting approved a construction contract with Grahl Construction for \$55.8m. Notice to proceed is currently delayed by the County requiring the School District to pay for changes to the traffic lights at the intersections of Baxter Street with Dudley Street and Magnolia Street. The School District is legally unable to incur such expenditure off the school site. An urgent resolution of this issue is required to avoid delay to the project.

A meeting is planned with the PTA on January 17 at 6pm to inform them of the plans, phasing/temporary classrooms, etc. and to address any concerns.

A proposal for the temporary classrooms for Grades 6-8 will be considered at the January BOE. These would be installed when school ends in May in order to be ready for use in August, 2023.

There was a general discussion on solar panels. These have not been adopted due to the 20 year payback period, concerns re the penetrations of roofs, and on-going maintenance issues and expertise. Monitoring of the progress of the use of solar panels is maintained by the SPLOST Department, the architect and engineers. However, a suggestion that some be used to support the greenhouse and barn was thought to be worthy of support and give some small-scale experience of their use.

This discussion arose from a question on how new concepts are introduced to the planning process for a new school. Apart from suggestions at the COC and direct with the SPLOST Department this can also be done via the Local Building Committee process.

School C/Easom: Student numbers continue to be monitored.

Cedar Shoals Fieldhouse: Work is progressing well. External brickwork has been done, windows are installed, power is on and internal walls are being primed. A new gas line from Cedar Shoals Drive is being installed on January 23. The target for completion is mid-April.

HT Edwards Culinary Kitchen: A pre-bid meeting with six contractors was held on January 9. Bids are due January 19 and will be reported to the February BOE. As soon as that decision is made work will begin on pre-ordering mechanical equipment to minimize any delays in supply. The schedule is for work to commence in May and be completed by December, 2023.

Facilities Review: A meeting is planned with the Superintendent to review additional requests for work to be funded from the remaining funds in ESPLOST 5.

Transportation & Technology: Staff computers have been received and the majority of them issued. The Transportation Department is preparing an order for summer 2023 buses, and plan to report to the BOE in February.

COC Membership: – Alex Sams encouraged members to seek out candidates to join the Committee

Sales Tax Revenue: The November collection was \$2.98m. It was noted that, although revenue collections have been significantly higher, project costs have also increased substantially.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

February 14, 2023

March 14, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.