

ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: February 14, 2023 8:30 am in Room 123, BOE HQ, 595 Prince Avenue.

Attendees:

Alex Sams	Andrew Malec	Nancy Hart	Erwin Greene
Leara Rhodes	Tad MacMillan	Greg Davis	Lara Mathes
Mark Evans	Niki Jones	Garrick Askew	John Gilbreath
Troy Basset	Gerald Arscott		

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

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

West Broad Campus: The Superintendent is exploring potential uses for the buildings and site. Meetings are being held with the ACC to consider possible uses.

Early Learning at Old Gaines: Playground equipment installation is complete, together with installation of sod. Consideration is being given to the renovation of the remainder of the building for further ELC use. There are problems with the earth shelter roof which is beyond its anticipated life and leaking in some spots. Some patch repairs have been done but roof replacement is the real long-term solution.

Board HQ: The application to ACC for re-zoning the houses on Prince Avenue and Hill Street has been made. The rezoning application recommendation is on Planning Commission meeting scheduled for April 6, 2023. The sale of the houses is proceeding and sale signs will be posted this week. In order to separate the houses from the main building the sewer line for the house on Prince Avenue and the water meter for the Hill Street property need to be changed. A presentation will be made at the next meeting giving information on renovating/ refurbishing Ellard Hall vs replacing it with a new facility.

Clarke Middle School: Work has commenced on site. During Spring Break delivery of the modular classrooms will begin so that as soon as school is out in May they can be connected to utilities, fire alarm, intercom etc. ready for use when school returns in August. These will be for grades 6 – 8. Priority is being given to ordering long lead items. Currently the lead for the 4,000amp switch gear is 92 weeks, which does not meet our schedule, so alternatives are being investigated. In response to a question about the existing outdoor classroom in the Pine trees behind the school, it was noted that no work will interfere with this, but it is set for renovation.

School C/Easom: Student numbers continue to be monitored for any trends that may indicate a future need to go ahead with either of these. The proposals for new development at the Georgia Mall indicate 250 children would be accommodated. The development is over an extended time period and would likely be spread over all grades, so the impact for the school district is likely to be low.

Cedar Shoals Fieldhouse: Work is progressing well. Permanent utilities are being installed and internal finishes are being done. External paving work is planned for Spring Break. The project is on target for April completion.

Cedar Shoals School Renovation: Planning work is now beginning on this next major project. The first meeting of the Local Building Committee is being held in the Media Center at 6:00pm on Tuesday, February 21. It was agreed that Erwin Greene would be the COC representative at that meeting, but all COC members are welcome to attend.

HT Edwards Culinary Kitchen: Eight contractors asked for documents, six attended the pre-bid meeting and four submitted bids. Three were closely priced in the \$2 – 2.2m range and one was significantly lower at \$ 1.75m. The two lowest were interviewed and it transpired that the lowest bidder had missed some items. He was also using an out-of-state contractor for the kitchen equipment, who he had not used before, and who also required a 90% advance deposit. Following the interviews each contractor was scored in accordance with the Request for Proposals documents. The second lowest on price, scored the highest overall. The BOE awarded the contract to Grahl Construction. Grahl has undertaken all the projects at HT Edwards and therefore are familiar with the building. Priority is now being given to ordering essential equipment. It was noted that the Chef who was to be teaching this program is leaving. The design is not solely based on any specific requirements from him. It is designed by a kitchen consultant within the architect firm, and intended to give students experience with equipment that they would encounter in any commercial kitchen. Visits were also made to other school districts to see their culinary programs and learn from their experiences.

Facilities Review: There is an on-going program of identifying smaller works that are required, which are outside the normal general fund maintenance program and are more appropriately financed from the systems renewal element of ESPLOST. Those under consideration include LED sports lighting, roofing at Clarke Central and upgrading security cameras to digital.

Transportation & Technology: The BOE has agreed the purchase of 12 propane powered buses. These will be funded by state grants, with the balance coming from ESPLOST funds; \$368,755 from ESPLOST 5 and \$463,359 from ESPLOST 6. There was nothing to report concerning technology.

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

Sales Tax Revenue: The December collection was a record \$3.3m. It was noted that, although revenue collections have been significantly higher, project costs have also increased substantially. A comparison of Hilsman with Clarke Middle shows an overall increase in costs in the order of 60% and an increase in revenue of 40%.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

March 14, 2023

April 11, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.