

March 9, 2016

The Board of Education of the Northridge Local School District met in a Special/Work Session on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM, in the Northridge High School Media Center in Johnstown, Ohio with the following individuals present: Mrs. Jayma Bammerlin, Mr. Rick Burkholder, Mr. Doug Hart, Mr. Chris Pokorny, Board Members; Dr. Chris Briggs, Local Superintendent; Mr. Britt Lewis, Treasurer; Building Administrators and other interested citizens and employees. Mr. Jeffrey Schrock, Board Member, absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mr. Doug Hart, Board President followed by roll call for attendance and the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bammerlin, present; Mr. Burkholder, present; Mr. Pokorny, present; Mr. Schrock, absent; Mr. Hart, present.

**Vision, Mission, and Viking Values Statements**

Vision Statement: *Our Vision is to ensure that every student reaches their fullest potential.*

Mission Statement: *Our Mission is to empower all students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be college and career ready.*

Viking Values: *Trust, Communication, Leadership, Collaboration, Respect, Integrity, Accountability*

**Superintendent Discussion:**

A. Plan for Progress

– Dr. Briggs explained that the Academic Committee visited New Albany Elementary on February 24, 2016 to explore potential classroom configurations, designed for collaboration and student achievement goals.

-Mr. Hart stated that the building was not conducive to Northridge students. New Albany schools has a “Pod” concept (common area to be used between several classes as teacher area, study, or pull out), classrooms had garage doors that led to a “porch area” which makes the classroom larger. Accordingly the garage door between the classrooms did not allow for a feeling of sound deadening. The idea of a “Pod” concept on a smaller scale could have merit in allowing teachers to collaborate and break out into smaller learning groups.

-Mr. Koker spoke, if we use what was learned from the visit, it is possible on a smaller scale to design areas between classrooms conducive to the Pod concept.

-Mrs. Bammerlin commented on the need for intervention or breakout areas inside the classroom space. It’s a good idea to have some flexibility and efficiencies built into our classrooms.

-Dr. Briggs spoke on collaboration among teachers, teachers and students, students in teams, all being able to utilize flexible space to enhance learning opportunities.

-Mr. Pokorny commented on our older building design only allows for collaboration/assistance/intervention to happen in the hallways. This makes it difficult for teachers to collaborate with each other and with students.

-Mrs. Liggett spoke about her observations during the visit. She agreed with Mr. Hart that the larger Pod concept would not work for our student configuration, but the smaller Pod concept would allow for teachers and students to collaborate, have intervention areas and flexibility for smaller group activities.

-Mrs. Bammerlin stated that we do have collaboration between teachers in the high school. The Middle School has rooms that have some of this Pod concept design that could be utilized with the additional space created with a PreK-6 school building, allowing additional space in the HS/MS.

-Dr. Briggs stated that the Pod concept is extremely beneficial to student learning and is supported by research studies.

-Mr. Brasno was asked about space at the MS and responded that several Middle School classroom have a pull out area currently being used by ESL and intervention. There are also some collaborative opportunities when a Pre-K-6 building is completed and additional space becomes available in the HS/MS

-Mrs. Liggett added that the pull out areas in the MS are currently occupied and would be good space for collaboration with teachers, teachers and students.

-Mrs. Bammerlin stated that if we were to only pursue a Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, there would be no extra space in the MS for pull out areas for flexibility and collaboration.

March 9, 2016

-Mr. Brasno was asked about the Trailers housing the IS and if there is collaborative space available. He stated that there is not collaborative space in the IS Trailers and that he has moved teachers into different learning collaborative configurations to help with the lack of space and quality learning environment.

- Dr. Briggs stated that it is not just the best teachers that make the difference, but a new collaborative Pod concept building will help the student learning experience.

-Dr. Briggs thanked the Finance, Facilities and Academic committees for all their hard work and efforts to help develop the Plan for Progress. The sentiments were echoed by the Board of Education as stated by Doug Hart, Jayma Bammerlin, with a follow up comment by Chris Pokorny.

**Treasurer Discussion:**

A. Plan for Progress

- Finance Committee – Allen BeVier, Chairman – The committee began in 2007 (Mrs. Bammerlin, Mr. Pokorny are non-voting members on committee)
- Facilities Committee – Brian Koker, Chairman (Mr. Burkholder, Mr. Schrock on committee)

-Mr. Hart said the Academic Committee visited an elementary school building renovated in February.

-Mr. Burkholder questioned the resolutions presented at last meeting, not liking the wording on Number 5 in resolution.

-Mrs. Bammerlin said that it is possible we may need something that we did not foresee and that is why Number 5 is included in resolution from the committee, for flexibility of the unforeseen.

-Mr. Pokorny gave an example of putting on the new roof at the Middle School as an unforeseen thing that came up that needed to be addressed. The wording allows the district to move forward if minor things come up or change orders.

-Mr. Lewis stated that ORC regulates some of things that can and cannot be done during the building process. The Bond issue is for the new building and main campus mechanical upgrades.

- Mr. Lewis answered the question of “Can we use an income tax to build a new building.” The Income tax is only 5 years for the original levy. We can only use these funds to operate with the income tax. Income tax not recommended for building projects as a 5 year commitment is not long enough to secure a bond.

-Mrs. Bammerlin stated that the Finance, Facilities and Academic committees came to Board Of Education with their resolutions to proceed with the Plan for Progress which includes the bond levy to build a new Pre-K-6 school building.

-Mr. Hart stated that we will have experts to help with projects and control the need for change orders.

-Mr. Lewis stated that like all projects initiated and conducted at Northridge Local Schools, we will continue to use an increment / decrement list to base all spending decisions on the Plan for Progress project.

-Mr. Hart commented that the details will be written into the construction contract.

-Mr. Lewis stated the resolutions from all three committees is to move forward. The Board will approve a resolution vetted by our attorneys and that the Board must approve the final resolution prior to moving forward. No funds can or will be spent until the Board approves moving forward with a bond levy.

-Mr. Lewis – Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

- Criteria Architect will be needed per ORC to help guide our work through the Design Team Firm RFP. This is part of the process to ensure the plan for the building is compliant and within budget. The Design Team Firm will design the actual building according to the specifications of the Criteria Architect.

-Mr. Pokorny asked about putting a new building on the land that is currently the primary school in Alexandria.

-Mr. Lewis stated that there is not enough land for a building the size needed for Pre-K-6.

-Mr. Pokorny also asked if there is any cost saving in single routes? Maybe have staff on the busses if single route?

-Mr. Lewis stated that a Central location makes the bus routes shorter and that the current Primary school is not made for parent drop off, traffic flow and is land locked.

March 9, 2016

- Mr. Lewis, said that the plan in the 1960's was to have all grades on one campus, so this is not a new concept for the district.
- Mr. Koker addressed the issue of land at the primary, he stated that it does not meet the current acreage for new build under ORC.
- Dr. Briggs told the board that he and Mr. Lewis met and had a meeting with the Mayor, village council president, and village administrator of Alexandria about the Plan for Progress. The discussion was conclusive that the major concern is that the building be razed and not left in disrepair when the time comes to close the Primary School in Alexandria. Dr. Briggs told those at this meeting that the Building must come down. How much this will cost me, as a taxpayer, is the question most are asking.
- Mr. Lewis highlighted items that need to be updated at the Primary School in Alexandria. Total replacement of plumbing, HVAC, radon abatement, asbestos remediation, roof, electric, elevator, stairs widened, kitchen, safety and security, parking, land issue to bring up to code. When renovation begins then things have to be up to today's standards. (20 Million + six years ago was the estimate for the school to be brought up to code for K-3 not for Pre-K-6).
- Mr. Pokorny/Mr. Liggett/Mr. Lewis - Plumbing leak found at Primary water fountain – plumbing in wall – almost completely plugged. Two plumbing companies would not take on this task because of the conditions of the pipes and age of the building.
- The question was asked again about building with an income tax. Mr. Lewis stated that we are unable to build with an income tax as it is only 5 years, we can use it as an operating fund with income tax. The Bond is over 30 years + for building project.
- Property tax = 8 million now
- Mr. Lewis stated we currently have no permanent improvement levy on our school district, no money is set aside for maintenance, all our upkeep has to come out of general fund which is supposed to go to educating students. We do have a small amount of funds in the retiring bond that raises about \$82,000 per year for maintenance of the HS/MS only. This bond is set to retire and 2018 also ending this funding stream.
- Mr. Lewis/Mr. Hart/Mrs. Bammerlin – Discussed how the process would work with a new bond and how it will absorb last year or so of the old bond. What new bond millage we ask for on the bond levy is all that the district will receive, not both the old bond and new bond, the district will only receive what is voted on during this bond levy request.
- Mr. Lewis stated that we do have a permanent improvement component on the ballot language to help maintain the new building and main campus for the next 37 years.
- Mr. Hart/Mr. Lewis/Dr. Briggs Thanked those on the committees
- Dr. Briggs thanked Sabrina Schwendeman, the chairperson of the Levy Committee, and its members that came to the meeting tonight, Stacy Duzan, Lori Smith, Dawn Burton, Marlene Roser. Next meeting March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Hart and Dr. Briggs said Thank you to all the volunteers for helping with this project.
- Mr. Hart would like the Board to move forward on with this process – discussion about time frame for this will be decided at the next board meeting.

**Announcements**

- OMEA Band and Choir Competitions
- High School Musical the coming weekend (March 11-13, 2016)
- Power of the Pen Regional – Lucy Holbrook qualified
- National Honor Society Tapping – March 9, 2016
- Klay Reeves, Freshman, placed 8<sup>th</sup> at State Wrestling Meet
- Middle School OMUN – March 13-15, 2016 in Columbus
- Primary Building – Super Hero Reading literacy
- Opera at Middle School – March 11, 2016
- Tyler's Light presentation – March 4, 2016

**Reaffirm Time and Place of Next Board of Education Meeting(s):**

Regular Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2016      Time: 6:30PM      Location: High School Media Center

**Reaffirm Time and Place of Next Treasurer/CFO Meetings:**

Finance Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016      Time: 6:00PM      Location: District Office  
Facilities Date: TBD      Time: 6:00PM      Location: District Office

March 9, 2016

**Executive Session**

**16-029** It was moved by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mrs. Bammerlin to Enter into Executive Session at 8:36PM.

Roll Call: Mr. Pokorny, aye; Mr. Hart, aye; Mr. Burkholder, aye; Mrs. Bammerlin, aye.  
The President declared the motion carried. 4-0.

Check Applicable Circumstances:

- To consider the  appointment,  employment,  dismissal,  discipline,  promotion,  demotion or  compensation of an employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against an employee, official, licensee or student, unless the employee, official, licensee or student requests a public hearing.
- To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, or the sale of property at competitive bidding.
- Conferences with the board's attorney to discuss matters which are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
- Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with employees.
- Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or state statutes.
- Details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a school, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the school.

**Time Out: 9:20PM**

No Decision coming out of Executive Session

**Adjourn Meeting**

**16-030** It was moved by Mr. Pokorny and seconded by Mr. Burkholder to adjourn the meeting at 9:21PM. The president declared the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\_\_\_\_\_ Board President  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

In addition to the minutes an auditory recording is recorded during each Board meeting. The recording is available to the public during regular working hours of the Northridge Local Schools District Office.