

**BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2013
MINUTES**

Chairman Mr. Crossley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Education Center Board Room.

Members in attendance: Mr. Crossley, Mr. Christman (7:00), Mrs. Dierolf, Mr. Elsler, Mrs. Hartford, Mr. Nichols, Mrs. Semmens, Mrs. Usavage
Administration: Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Amuso, Mr. Szablowski, Dr. Cooper, Mr. Grenewald
Public: 25

Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and observed a moment of silence.

Mr. Mark Drabinsky, Boyertown, PA, requested permission to videotape the meeting.

Public Comment

Donald Frey commented on economic conditions, the Senior High construction project and keeping the old building.

Linda Curry spoke about the construction projects and the decisions made during the 1990s renovations.

Christine Neiman spoke about the Senior High School construction project, the old high school as a landmark and the cost of the project.

Hugh Kelly talked about the possible demolition of the old three story high school structure and the historic value of the structure.

The minutes from the committee meetings of 1/29/13 were approved.

Discussion

Ralph Borneman, Body-Borneman Insurance, Sean Sabol, PSBA, and Gary Meinen, Willis Insurance, presented the concept of an Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP) and how the program could save the District money in covering the BASH Project Liability Insurance. The School District would assume the liability insurance to cover all contractors during the construction, saving the contractors from including their cost of insurance in the bids to the District. Having one policy cover all contractors saves the District the issue of determining responsibility for liability issue

during the project. The insurance professionals addressed several questions from committee members.

Mr. Szablowski updated the committee on the status of the Construction Management Services Request for Proposal (RFP). A Draft of the RFP will be distributed to all Board members with discussion scheduled for the March 5, 2013 Facilities committee meeting.

EI Associates presented an update to the committee regarding the BASH building project. A copy of the presentation is included with these minutes. The electricity and lighting upgrades for the building were reviewed. There was discussion on the HVAC Systems and the addition of a hybrid geo-thermal option that is being considered. The various services that are required throughout the project were reviewed with the test bore for geo-thermal conductivity scheduled in the next few days.

EI Associates introduced a grant opportunity through the Alternative Clean Energy Program (ACE) suggesting that the District could qualify for up to \$2 million in grant funds if the BASH project qualified for Gold LEED status. There was discussion about what would be necessary to move the project from current Silver LEED to Gold. EI Associates believes the BASH project would qualify by adding a few qualifying actions to gain the necessary "points". The Committee discussed pursuing the grant and was informed that the cost to EI Associates to submit the application was \$8,500. The committee recommended the approval of the grant to the full School Board for the February 26th Board meeting.

Mr. Szablowski gave the committee and the public in attendance a brief history of the process that started in 2011 when the District's Comprehensive Plan was developed, approved and submitted to the State. The plan outlined the educational direction for the District and was a key factor in establishing the academy structure at the High School. October 2011 marked the culmination of a demographic study by the Pennsylvania Economy League commissioned by the School Board. The study identified significant growth expectations for the District in the next decade. The School Board then enlisted the services of EI Associates to perform a District-wide feasibility Study to determine the status of the current District buildings and develop a plan to address the space needs for the future. The

School Board reviewed several options and chose the option that would immediately address the space needs at the elementary buildings by adding ninth grade to the high school, moving sixth grades to the current junior high buildings and relieving 2 to 4 classrooms at each elementary. The district has been working on the renovation/addition project since summer 2012 and the schematic design phase was approved in January. We are currently in the Design development phase with input provided by the School Board, the Design Team and the Project Team. Mrs. Semmens added that no final decision has been made regarding the old three story high school structure.

Public Comment

Donald Frey stated he could appreciate the projected growth but questioned the seven elementary schools' needs and class sizes.

Charles Haddad discussed the educational use of the old building and acknowledged the restraint of land to use and the development of the BASH property.

Ruth Baker questioned the stated operational cost figures for the old three-story building at between \$200,000 and \$250,000 and expressed her concern for taxpayers in supporting the project.

Christine Neiman asked several questions about residents in Boyertown and suggested a possible vote on the construction project.

Brenda Meitzler questioned the number of Boyertown graduates from the Committee and suggested there is no sentimental value for the old school.

Mrs. Semmens again stated no firm decision has been made for the old building. Mr. Crossley stated that the old building would be used until the end of the construction project, which is projected into the second half of 2015, and suggested members of the public attend the public hearing scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2013 at the Junior High West Auditorium.

Mrs. Dierolf suggested committee members read a PDE/PSBA report on the maintenance of old buildings.

Mrs. Semmens and Mr. Christman moved for adjournment at 8:28 pm.