

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, FEBRUARY 2, 2011  
PRESIDENT CRAIG PRESIDING**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Craig called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed and was in compliance with the open meeting law.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representative Joe Luginbill was also present.

**NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION**

President Craig announced that the Board would go into closed session following the committee meeting under 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility to monitor Board/Superintendent goals and 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

**Committee Report/Item for Discussion**

Referendum Update and Finalization of Scope of Referendum Question(s)

Dr. Heilmann shared the documents that were prepared by Bray Architects working with ECASD administration. He said the DeLong numbers had not been finalized yet and would be provided to the Board over the weekend.

Larry Bray, Jeff Bray and Matt Wolfert from Bray Architects were present to review the design plans and costs for the three elementary schools. Larry Bray said they met with numerous staff members and toured the buildings extensively to come up with the information.

Jeff Bray shared the design for Robbins Elementary highlighting the existing area that will be removed from the building and replaced with a two-story addition as well as the work proposed on the entrance, gym, cafeteria, kitchen and bus/car drop off area. This project would expand Robbins to four sections by adding nine classrooms. There will be small group instruction (SGI) areas on the second floor that will be used as small pull-out rooms to work with kids on an individual basis. There were two music rooms in the plan. One of the rooms could be half music/half art, which gives flexibility to the school for scheduling. He said that in essence, when remodeling/expansion is completed, it will be like a new school.

One feature of the design is having a secured area that could be locked up for after-school activities that might be open to the community. This also allows the district to turn off systems in academic classrooms to save on energy. The total project cost would be \$9.6 million and could accommodate 557 students, and if utilizing the flex rooms, 600 students. Most of the items were listed as Priority 1 and 2 maintenance needs with some level 3 priorities included as well.

Dr. Heilmann explained that flex rooms are used to work with small groups and even though the intention is not to have five sections across the board, it would give flexibility when certain grades have slightly larger numbers to move that class through within the building.

Com. Janke said he was interested in utilizing white roofs to cut down on heat transfer. Mr. Wolfert said that Wisconsin falls at a line where the white roof has limited energy saving benefits and they have a tendency to get dirty.

The Putnam Heights design was reviewed. It was noted that this design was significantly more costly than an earlier report. The updated cost of the project was \$8.3 million. It would be configured to allow for future expansion to four sections. Mr. Larry Bray said that the original plan of expanding classrooms was expensive to gain extra footage. Reorienting the building helped with the MacArthur Avenue entrance and created a new addition which will be size-appropriate and consistent with other schools. The updated plan will also better utilize the food service program. Mr. Kramer added that the changes allow for consistent flexible spaces and break out areas. A new gymnasium was added to allow enough space for four sections of students. Putnam does not have a space large enough for all school events and the larger gym will accommodate those types of gatherings. The IMC would expand slightly to accommodate the size of the building and the second computer lab.

Jeff Bray explained that the design will allow for three sections of students plus two flex rooms. The main entrance was moved to the west side of the building. Drop off for cars would be at that entrance along with the new gym. The bus drop off would be on the MacArthur Avenue side of the building. He added that the site drove the design of the building as they have had considerable safety issues with current car/bus drop off. The existing gym would be used as a music room. The existing cafeteria and kindergarten room would be developed into a larger cafeteria and the kitchen would be moved.

Several Board members were concerned about the increased scope of the project. The original discussions included the addition of one classroom but the project now has six additional classrooms. The Board wanted to be particularly sensitive to the fact that Little Red was closed and those students were moved to Putnam; adding additional classrooms might send a wrong message.

Mr. Leibham said the Demographic Trends Committee identified the potential for limited space in some schools. The District could expand classrooms in schools experiencing the growth or shift between 35 to 50 kids each year to fill empty spaces by shifting

boundaries between various neighborhoods. There would be a need to re-boundary on a regular basis. With the plans as presented, it would provide the flexibility needed to add the students that are projected for the next 8 to 12 years. The Board was more comfortable with the proposed plan in light of that information. It was said that if the plan addresses the District's long-term facility needs as well as the projected growth in enrollments, the Board may be better off proceeding rather than having to come back in 3 to 5 years because there isn't enough space for students.

The Board talked about the added autism room. Mr. Leibham felt it was likely that this self-contained program would stay at Putnam. Robbins, Sherman and Northwoods also have programs for disabled students. He said if the idea is to accommodate additional regular education students at Putnam, some self-contained special education classes could be relocated. If the early learning program was moved elsewhere, the self-contained programs could be relocated to schools on the north side but there would not be a geographic balance for that program.

Sherman would add eleven classrooms and small group instruction spaces to make it a four-section school. The gym and cafeteria would be expanded. Similar to Robbins, a portion of the building would be demolished and made into a two-story addition. The administrative office would be moved. A separate car loop would be created to make car and bus drop off safer. The addition of an art/music room will provide flexibility for scheduling with the four-section building.

President Craig pointed out that if the ten-year projected plan will accommodate the projected increases in enrollment, the Board will have to look at Little Red. If there are enrollment solutions with this plan, that site may not be necessary to keep.

Mr. Kramer anticipated that the projected costs for DeLong would decrease after Bray does its extensive review of the project on Friday. The Board will receive an electronic version of project details on Saturday with hard copies presented on Monday.

Mr. Kramer was asked about the need to go back to the public for additional referendums in the future. He said with the updates to the elementary schools, it would allow the District to not have to reinvest in any buildings for the next 8 to 12 years. He said there will be needs at South much like the project at DeLong and there is a backlog of normal maintenance needs, but the District would be sitting pretty well..

The Board had a discussion about including secure entrances as part of the referendum question. Some felt they should be part of the question but the majority of the Board did not want to include them in the referendum and preferred to make updates utilizing the maintenance budget on an as-needed basis.

The Board talked about the Early Learning Center. Mr. Leibham felt there was a legitimate need for this center. The center would allow Montessori to expand to its original intent and would free up two classrooms at Longfellow, two at Locust Lane,

three at North and one at Northstar. It would allow for a more comprehensive early learning program and provide efficiencies with staffing, program delivery and busing.

After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to have two questions: one for the Early Learning Center and the other to include the DeLong, Sherman, Robbins and Putnam projects.

Mike Clark from Baird explained the financial aspect of the referendum. He said the existing debt falls off after the 2012 payment. He said from a structure standpoint the District is well positioned to take on debt and maintain current payment level. The projected referendum amounts of \$51-\$56 million could be accommodated without having an increase in the tax rate. He said there are several ways the District could structure the debt to allow that to happen. As far as the referendum questions, bond counsel will draft something for the Board to consider, which could include verbiage of an exact Early Learning Center site. He recommended the first question worded to say "up to" a certain amount rather than exact amounts for each project.

The Board directed administration and Bray to review the Putnam project and to clarify the DeLong project.

#### **Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting**

Com. Johnson moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

#### **Motion to go into Closed Session**

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Johnson, to go into closed session under 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility to discuss monitoring of Board/Superintendent goals and 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, Shiel and Wogahn. Nay: Janke.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.