

CROSBY-IRONTON SCHOOLS
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
January 27, 2021

Item 7.2b

The buildings and grounds committee met on January 27, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. with the following present: Joe Dwyer, Jill Decent and Barb Neprud. Jamie Skjeveland, Erica Marcussen, Travis Fuechtmann and Bill Tollefson were also present.

Final Review of Phase II – Summer of 2021 Projects – The committee reviewed multiple elements of the Phase II – Summer of 2021 Projects, as follows:

CRES 4th and 5th Grade Pod Classroom Enclosure/Pod Remodel – The committee reviewed plans for the 4th and 5th grade pod classroom enclosure and pod remodeling project. There was not much change in detail since the Board's last review of these. The committee briefly discussed the furniture planning and acquisition process. It will be the same as prior classroom enclosure projects.

CTE Wing Remodel, including FACS Kitchen Room – The committee received a detailed explanation of renovations that will take place in the CTE wing, including the FACS kitchen room. A final review meeting with staff will be held on February 3, 2021, and not much change is anticipated, so this will be considered the final plan review for this area, as well. The committee was especially impressed by the plans to remodel the FACS kitchen room and the opportunities that such a remodeled space will provide in preparing students for the world of work.

Pre-Referendum Budget, Updated Project Budget and Updated Overall Budget – The pre-referendum budget did not include any plans for remodeling of the FACS kitchen room and only included light remodeling of the CTE wing, which has now progressed to medium to heavy remodeling in certain areas. By including the FACS space, this will add an estimated \$200,000 to the referendum expenditure budget. With these factors in play, and based on current design development construction estimates, Phase II is anticipated to be approximately \$2.1 million over pre-referendum estimates and the overall project budget is estimated to be \$700,000 over budget, which will need to be covered by cost savings in other areas of remodeling, including: underspent contingency which was planned at 15% and usually is much less; Phase I final costs coming in under budget; use of funds that are generated on investment of the bond proceeds from the bond sale date until draws are made to pay for construction costs; the potential use of other non-referendum funding streams, such as the reserves for operating capital and LTFM; and savings anticipated due to a construction bidding environment that is currently very favorable and anticipated to come in well under budget. The other high cost item being considered relating to the budget is the availability of funds to purchase at least one of the significant, key pieces of equipment identified by the manufacturing partners. The aforementioned items are anticipated to bring the overall project budget in at balanced, allowing planning to continue. The School Board will have one more opportunity for review of the overall project budget as they consider awarding project bids in March for CRES and in April for the CTE wing.

Timeline – The two projects will be split, rather than combined as they were in Phase I. This will allow the elementary project to have plans finalized and submitted to Building Code Review first. It is critical that the 4th and 5th grade pod remodeling start as soon as possible to allow for completion in mid-August, as it will be almost impossible to start school in the Fall of 2021 at CRES with 10 classrooms not available. The CTE remodeling plans will follow about a month behind at Building Code Review and contingency plans will be developed to allow industrial tech and FACS classes to function in the Fall of 2021 in other areas of the building if the remodeling of these spaces is not completed by the time school starts.

An Initial Look at Phase III Projects and Planning for Summer 2022 – The committee began work on planning for Phase III – Summer of 2022 projects, including a review of areas in each building that will be included.

Potential Projects Included in Phase III – The committee reviewed information about the areas that would likely be considered for remodel during Phase III – Summer of 2022. At this high school, these areas include the core areas of the 1976 portion of the building, including the media center, the 11th and 12th grade student locker areas, and the cafeteria/commons. At the elementary school, these areas include the

enclosure of classrooms in the 6th grade pod and remodeling of the media center area. The plans will include an area that will contain library books and an area that will contain access to more powerful technology in something like a technology center.

Initial Planning Steps – The committee discussed the both Phase I and Phase II had much more pre-determined direction in terms of what the remodeling would include. Phase III has that pre-determined element for the 6th grade pod, but the media center at CRES and the core areas of the high school will involve more brainstorming, visioning and input. With the goal of getting the plans completed for Phase II projects to provide as much time as possible during the summer of 2021 to complete those projects, the planning work may not start for a month or two on Phase III. The process will start with development of architectural backgrounds for Phase III areas; followed by stakeholder meetings with staff, students and the community; followed by a download of gathered information to the buildings and grounds committee and School Board. Phase III at the high school was mentioned as a potential community engagement area. The committee direction was to proceed with stakeholder meetings first and bring ideas from those stakeholder meetings back to the buildings and grounds committee and School Board for a final decision.

One of the other topics of planning will be to decide the criteria for memorialization, including development of some sort of process, rules and structure. Planning would include the potential of a visual trophy case and process for disposal of existing trophies, with an eye toward providing a balance between technology and keeping items of historical significance. It was suggested that the Cuyuna Lakes Education Foundation (CLEF) might be a helper in this endeavor.

Another item that was briefly mentioned was the possibility of during the school day daycare being provided for school staff and planning an area in the facility that is designed to function in that way.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by William Tollefson