

CROSBY-IRONTON SCHOOLS
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
November 21, 2022

Item 7.2a

The buildings and grounds committee met in the Forum Room on November 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. with the following present: Mary Kuhlmann, Tommy Sablan and Mike Domin. Jamie Skjeveland, Erica Marcussen, Travis Fuechtmann and Bill Tollefson were also present.

Phase IV Summer of 2023 Construction Project – Schematic Design – As a follow-up to a buildings and grounds committee on April 26, 2022, a special Board meeting on June 13, 2022, and several stakeholder meetings at CRES; Erica Marcussen from Widseth and Travis Fuechtmann from Contegrity provided information on Phase IV Summer of 2023 construction plans and budget.

High School – Refresh classrooms and maintenance of exterior building envelope – At the high school, focus will be on the exterior building envelope deferred maintenance items from the facilities evaluation, including items from an updated walk-through, which includes non-roof items such as walls, windows and doors. Interior work will include items identified in the facilities evaluation study for the two-story classroom area and the 1976 classrooms that are in the perimeter of the media center. This will be a refresh rather than moderate- to heavy-construction as in past phases. Additional discussion focused on classroom furnishings and the importance of considering updated student desks in the process. A process will be used to inventory existing classroom furniture and to master plan a replacement cycle. This work is still pending, but will commence soon.

CRES – Special Ed/Music/Early Learning/Parent Pick-up – As previously determined in the April and June 2022 meetings, Phase IV will shift resources from the Performance Area at CRES to other areas that have been identified as having more critical need. Overall, spaces are being considered for multiple use, trying to preserve some of the initial intent while meeting the needs of today’s programs and students.

Early Learning - Plans include moving Ranger Care to a space with an exterior door for drop-off and pick-up convenience and move School Readiness into the existing Ranger Care space. Casework in the existing spaces was not updated in 2014 and will be updated now to a plan that is more functional. Teacher office space will be provided in a corner of each classroom to create a space where teachers can have communication with parents during times when students are engaged in other activities, including napping. Mechanical and electrical items will be reviewed for improvement.

Special Education – DCD Space – The DCD special education space adjacent to the early learning classrooms will be reconfigured to incorporate use of the former HeadStart room into an expanded DCD space. The toilet room in the old HeadStart room will be removed and two sections of wall will be removed to provide access and flow between Resource Room A and the old HeadStart room. A “calming cove” space will be provided to serve students who need some time to “think about it”. Life skills and toilet room/shower/changing space was updated in 2014 and continues to be functional. The existing mailbox room will be modified and merged with the copier/work room, allowing a way to provide access to the old HeadStart room directly from the main corridor, rather than needing to move through the mailbox space.

Special Education – EBD Space – The EBD space, utilizing what was originally the art room and the science room, will have casework modifications to make the casework more functional and to provide room for a doorway to be placed in the wall between the two rooms to allow much better flow of staff and students, especially in the event of a student disturbance. Office spaces in both rooms will be reconfigured to meet current needs. The old art sink and a circular handwashing sink will be removed and a self-contained, handicapped accessible toilet room will be constructed next to the existing time out space. Space will also be provided for a “calming cove” to afford staff with expanded opportunities for managing students who may be in crisis.

Music Room – The music room will see new, more functional casework and the office space will be converted to storage for music equipment. The ensemble room will remain as-is, allowing it to be used by either music or special education, as student needs evolve. The vestibule outside the music room will be removed to allow easier access to both spaces without the need to go through the existing vestibule space.

Parent Pick-Up/Drop-Off – The parent pick-up outside the main entry to CRES will be modified with an eye to improving safety and eliminating some current traffic pinch-points. This will involve creating a separate driveway space upon entering the parent pick-up queue and once in that space, not needing to re-enter the maze of the body of the main parking lot, but exiting directly from the CRES property within that same one-way driveway. This driveway will be designed with a couple of curves to reduce speed and to flow exiting traffic to the north. Sidewalk will be provided on the north side of the parking lot to allow access to the bike trail so students from the CRES neighborhood who walk to school will have a more defined path.

Phase IV Budget – The pre-referendum budget for Phase IV items, including deferred maintenance items from the facilities evaluation studies, as best as can be determined, was \$4,947,000. This includes construction, professional fees, contingency, and furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E). A reasonably conservative schematic design budget estimate for the above Phase IV projects, is \$5,336,000. After the project goes to bid, another financial projection will be updated and some of the \$389,000 over-budget may self-correct. If not, many of the items included in the refresh of high school classrooms, also qualify under long-term facilities maintenance (LTFM) funding and could be covered by those funds. At June 30, 2022, the LTFM Reserved Fund Balance is just under \$1.1 million, so adequate funding is available, if needed, for other path.

Bike Trails Through Undeveloped Area at North Side of CRES Campus Property – The committee was provided with an update on the fundraising efforts for the construction of bike trail and outdoor classroom space at the north side of the CRES property. This project was initially presented to the Building and Grounds committee in April 2022. An estimate of \$40,000 is needed for the project and fundraising was approved. As of this meeting, there has been a commitment of \$17,500, with additional funding options such as CLEF (which was meeting simultaneously to this committee's meeting to discuss a potential CLEF grant for this project), the IRRRB and other donors that have yet to respond. The committee agreed that the School District will commit the final \$10,000, leaving \$30,000 to be provided from other sources. The School District's funding will only kick in once all of the needed funds have been committed and received. All funds must be secured prior to proceeding with the project.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by William Tollefson