

SOUTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Boyanowski Administration Building
241 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA 16912

MINUTES: BOARD OF EDUCATION—April 12, 2010- *Special Board Meeting*

The meeting of the Board of Education of the Southern Tioga School District was called to order by Board President Barbara Shull, with the following members also present: Ivan Erway, Roxanne Landis, Stuart Crossen, Frank Kollar, Terry Osborne, Susan Jaquish, and Dan Berguson.

Also present were Mr. Kalata, Mrs. Crowell, Mrs. Perry, Mr. Jaquish, Dr. Drabick, Mr. Rotella, Mr. David, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Lindner and interested teachers and citizens.

Administrative Report

Mr. Kalata stated that the meeting will begin with a review of the PlanCon process, which informs the PA Department of Education that the District is beginning a project. Potential funding options will also be presented. At best, bids will start January 2011 and ground breaking April 2011. Mr. Kalata introduced Architect Sam Scarantino of Quad Three Group.

Mr. Scarantino reviewed PlanCon, the feasibility study, the 15 options developed and reviewed in earlier meetings to address the deficiencies at North Penn High School. The variance process with PDE has begun. PlanCon A has to be submitted before the variance will be approved. It will take approximately 1 ½ years for planning the project. Two projects are being considered to address both Blossburg Elementary School and North Penn High School—renovating for \$16 - \$19 million or renovating/reconstructing at \$20 - \$22 million.

PlanCon A approval would provide authorization to proceed, but the District would have the opportunity to cancel the project up until the time before bids are opened. A scope of work is included in PlanCon A, but changes can be made. Only large changes would require starting the process over again. Since PDE has only one reviewer, we should get this project on his agenda as soon as possible. Various challenges on the site include the existing court, roadways near the building, the foundation with a nearby river.

An Act 34 public hearing is required if the building addition is 20% or more of the existing building. The purpose would be to define the proposed building to the public for information and comment. A three week advertisement notice and a 30 day waiting period following the hearing would be required. Mrs. Jaquish asked, what if it is negative feedback. Mr. Scarantino responded that the hearing is for public information—it is still the Board's decision. Usually the hearing will include the Superintendent's introduction, architect review of the project, financial advisor report and public comment, all which will be stenographically recorded.

Mr. Kollar asked at what point do we let the community give input as to some areas.

Mr. Scarantino responded, after the educational space is defined, come back to a public meeting. This could happen with design, design development, and construction development.

Mrs. Perry reviewed budget data, reporting that a balanced operating budget is possible for 2010/11. With the Act 1 Index and exceptions, the millage rate could be increased to raise an additional \$621,734. Financing is being considered with a combination of Build America Bonds (BAB) and bond financing. The overall millage impact is 1.87 mills over three years. Mr. Erway asked if we raised the millage rate for the W. L. Miller Elementary School project. Mrs. Perry will look into this. The debt issuance would most likely be issued prior to December 2010 and include two payments in 2010/11. This would also cover costs prior to construction, such as advertising and architect costs.

Board member Gloria Schwab arrived at 6:00 PM.

Citizen Recognition

Leon Kocher, Covington Township, commented on his concerns about cost overruns and the expense of renovations vs. new buildings. He stated that he usually does not come to meetings because "you people" usually do a good job. He asked the Board to not forget their roots and what it is like to be a tax payer.

Kate Chabala, Blossburg Elementary Teacher, thanked the Board again for standing by their community to renovate the schools.

Beverly Jones, Blossburg resident and retired teacher, expressed concerns about an additional gym and the limited parking available around the school building. Student activities participants already park in lawns.

John Martin, Mansfield resident, requested that the schematic and financing information be placed on-line for community access.

Frank Higgins, Blossburg resident, inquired about Morris Street and has the Board considered closing this street down for additional construction and parking space.

James Bogaczyk, Blossburg Borough Council Member, stated that anything the Borough can do we will try. He and other council members present expressed an interest in discussing the Morris Street options. He requested a letter be sent to the Borough regarding the matter.

John Eckman, Blossburg resident, asked if a two or one story building would be more expensive. Mr. Scarantino replied that a two story has additional costs, but some economies of scale can be gained with a two story.

Ms. Shull asked if the variance to PDE has actually been applied for yet. Mr. Scarantino said no, they are gathering data for it now.

Jeff Everett, Blossburg resident, expressed appreciation for the Board doing this project. I think we are doing the right thing and you are being quite careful.

Action Items

The Administration recommended Board approval of PlanCon A and B for submission to the PA Department of Education for the **North Penn High School and Blossburg Elementary School building project.**

On motion of Mr. Berguson and second of Mr. Kollar, the Board voted 9 to 0 to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kollar requested that the minutes reflect the approval of this motion was unanimous.

On motion of Mr. Kollar and second of Mrs. Schwab the Board voted 9-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Penny L. Crowell, Board Secretary