

School Board Program and Property Committee
OEG IMC – June 8, 2015 – 6:30 PM
Minutes

Membership: Abulkhair Masoom
Nancy Bongers
Eric Fatzinger
Connie Valenza
Art Beaulieu

I. Previous Meeting Minutes

a. Minutes from the May 26, 2015 meeting were accepted as printed.

II. Property Issues

Superintendent Valenza summarized the board retreat that took place on May 22, 2015. After interviewing four architectural firms the board narrowed their decision down to two firms – PRA and FEH. Superintendent Valenza contacted other school districts for references on the two firms. No red flags on either firm. She also explained that the lead contact person for FEH would be Kevin and the lead contact person for PRA would be Steve. Both very willing to work from a learning prospective.

Art Beaulieu and Superintendent Valenza toured three schools in Iowa that were projects done by FEH. Superintendent Valenza stated that we will be able to make decisions based on cost and quality of work from an educational/school building point of view.

Superintendent Valenza asked if the committee members had a recommendation for the full board to go forward with a firm tonight or if they should pull it from the school board agenda. If pulled, what and when would be our next steps?

Nancy voted to go to the full board with the recommendation of the PRA firm. She felt that they were more up to speed due to all the referendum work that they provided us with. Abulkhair inquired the percentage of the whole job pricing and how they came to that amount. He also asked about Geotechnical-not to be at owner's expense – which FEH did not list. Abulkhair was comfortable with going with either firm. Eric mentioned that he liked the referendum work that PRA did for us but he also thought that FEH may have fresh eyes for the project. Eric was comfortable with going with either firm.

The committee was reminded that FEH was the highest bid (out of all four bids) and if chosen we should have a compelling reason to accept the highest bid.

Art Beaulieu reiterated that both firms are willing to be guided by us which is a plus. Also, both companies are available and have ample staff to begin and complete our project.

The committee agreed to recommend to the full board to choose a firm at tonight's board meeting.

III. Program Topics

Superintendent Valenza began the program topic portion of the meeting introducing ReNah Reuter and explained that the new pilot program she was about to update the committee on is not a replacement to the CARE Program.

ReNah Reuter briefly explained the program. It would be a pilot program for the 2015-16 school year for kindergarten and first graders. Each grade would meet 2 nights per week from 3:30-5:15 pm. Snack and recess would be offered at the beginning of each night for the students.

There would be two – 12 week sessions that parents would need to commit to. Student fees would consist of \$2.00 per day for snack and supplies and \$1.00 per day for shuttle service to the program. The families who have an approved waiver would receive the services for free. Staffing would consist of one adult program advisor and the number of adult directors/teachers would depend on enrollment numbers. ReNah based her estimates for the program on 75 students attending. She agreed that she was being very optimistic! The goal of this program is to provide fun and engaging activities to the young children as well as socialization and to promote learning. Eventually she would like to see the program grow to the older grades as well. Activities will include STEM topics as well as Art and Play Acting/Storytelling. She shared handouts with the committee members regarding program resources/ideas/and activities.

ReNah summarized the estimated costs for the district. A handout was given to each member that explained estimated costs, transportation and responsibilities for the adults. Based on 75 students being enrolled per day, the cost of the program would be approximately \$17,000. Nancy stated that some of our families live out of town and would have difficulty picking up their child/ren. She asked if we would have any taxi

vouchers available for those families. Transportation and needs were discussed further. ReNah explained that some costs involved with this pilot program could be covered by grant money.

Questions were asked regarding the staffing. ReNah suggested that they start the year with 3 staff (depending on enrollment numbers). The Program Advisor would likely be a teacher but could also be a support staff person or community member. She also mentioned that the UW-Platteville Methods students may apply for at least one session when they are available.

Abulkhair asked where the money would come from in order to provide this service and if 2 days per week per grade was enough time. The overall budget was discussed and in conclusion the program was do-able. ReNah also stated that they hope that the program will grow to include more days and more students in grades 2-3. She also discussed that the more students they have in the program the more space they will need. Teacher classrooms are an option but the teachers have a few concerns with their rooms. Possibly use the IMC, Commons or the Art/Music rooms. They will look at available options. Eric asked if there were enough rooms available at OE Gray for the program. Art and Superintendent Valenza explained that all but 3 classrooms are being used and those rooms are currently being used for storage.

The committee members were in agreement to recommend the Neal Wilkins after School Pilot Program to go to the full board at the school board meeting for approval.

Superintendent Valenza closed the meeting with reiterating that both architectural firms are willing to work with local contractors and we as the school will have final say. She and Art discussed the functional aspects of each firm. Superintendent Valenza thought that PRA buildings are more functional and eye appealing. Art looked at each firm from a constructional view. He liked some of the designs of FEH and the natural light panels used in the gymnasium. Both agreed that they would be comfortable with either architectural firm

Superintendent asked the committee which firm they would be comfortable with - both/either bids for the architectural firm. Committee members agreed going to the full board with the recommendation to go forward with the PRA Architectural Firm. Each member was asked their preference - 2 for PRA and 1 for either firm

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm

Recorded by Lynne Tanner