

**SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 24, 2019**

**Fair Haven Grade School**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Unapproved Minutes**

In attendance: Brooke Olsen Farrell, Peter Clark, Chris Cole, Kris Benway, Angela Charron, John, Architect, Cheryl Scarzello, Walter Ripley, Casey O'Meara, Jason Rasco, Trevor Ezzo, Joshua Hardt, Amy Munger, Peter Stone, Rick Wilson, Julie Finnegan, Mike Bache

Call to Order: Brooke Olsen Farrell called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Angela Charron made the motion to approve the agenda, this was seconded by Jason Rasco.

Approval of Minutes of June 3, 2019: Jason Rasco made the motion to approve the minutes of June 3, 2019, this was seconded by Joshua Hardt; there was one abstention, Angela Charron.

**New Business:**

- Presentation by Black River Design - Revised Architectural Drawing for HS/MS:

The Architect explained that the design was based on the Educational Specifications developed by the Innovation Committee and trying to keep the components that were shared in tact. John took feedback from the June 3, 2019 meeting and went back and redesigned the few areas that the Committee suggested. One of the revisions brought the Community Hall further back in the design to be right across from a main entrance so that it was clear what people were entering for...some event in the Community Hall, They also reconfigured some of the team room space. The Architect is looking for further specification as to how much space is needed for Special Ed both in the High School and in the Middle School. Again the colors on the plans represent the following: Orange is shared space which equates to about 18,000 square feet, blue is Central Office which is in the existing high school and takes up about 3,000 square feet, ref is Middle School space and equates to about 44,000 square feet and yellow is High School space and equates to approximately 87,000 square feet. Both John and Peter Clark cautioned when looking at the drawings that the MS addition is only one floor and is half the size of the High School footprint, There was additional discussion with the committee regarding the Middle School gym and whether

we were content with it just being regulation size for Middle School or whether we want to expand the footprint of that gym slightly to afford more opportunity for two full high school size courts (side by side) that could be running simultaneously. This would make more play and practice time available and could get students home from school much earlier from practices as currently they have to stagger any practices. Essentially you would then have three regulation size courts. The existing design also was configured so that it is accessible to the community, yet they do not have full access to the educational areas of the high school or the middle school and it maintains autonomy of middle and separate high school, which is feedback we heard from all stakeholders and from the community members that gave feedback into the process. The new design calls for 4 renovated Science labs in the high school on the second floor and in close proximity to them on the second floor greenhouse space would be designed as this was lost by some of the new building, parking and field space required. There would also be 4 math spaces, 4 social study spaces (2 upstairs and 2 down). This design also provides a large STEM area that would be state of the art and could serve to draw in more students. This redesign also cleaned up the traffic flow and reconfigured additional parking spaces. With the newly acquired property off Airport Rd, there could be a road built to gain access to the fields and athletic parking could happen all along this route. Jason Rasco again asked about access through the main building which would shorten the way to the fields in the back rather than walking the full length of the building on the outside and around the corner. This can be achieved. Peter reviewed additional talking points for the project with the committee. Brooke also shared that both the MS and HS teacher's had provided feedback on the original plans and felt that the Educational Specifications they had requested were accounted for. They tried getting into the minutia about where specific programs would be located and we are not there yet.

- Art Economy Data - Making the case for strengthening arts education in Slate Valley, Exhibition/Performance Space Rationale.

Peter Clark, Consultant had done some significant research about the Arts and what they bring to a community and even researched field of employment related and tied to the Arts. He shared a hand out with the committee Please see hand out for additional rationale about the significance of adding the Community Hall and the benefits it could bring to our school, community and to potential for drawing in others with an interest in the arts. Peter also spent a good deal of time going over the HS Room Utilization chart. He shared that he had originally mis-spoken about the current utilization is only at 55%, this however was based on information given to him at the time. He gave a handout and it is more in the ballpark of 74% utilized. Peter talked about "right-sizing" the existing structure so that the spaces fit the need, not utilizing a whole classroom space

for support of a few students at a time. This is one reason why we are requiring additional building space for MS as there is not as much free space as originally thought. Rick Wilson asked if we were set on a three pod teaching system for Middle School as the 2 pod system shows significant cost savings. Brooke answered we are not set but had discussed building and allowing space for a 3 pod system for the future with hopes of expansion. We do not have to hire and fill those spaces now. Financially it makes sense to plan for the expansion now while building then to realize later we should have accounted for this potential expansion in our design. Per Peter we need to finalize some decisions, 2 Pod vs. 3 Pod (to leave it in design), whether or not to enlarge the MS gym to regulation size, determine which draft you want to go out to the community, emphasizing the need to keep the MS/HS separate; if this is still the mantra it definitely calls for additional space. Also to be determined is the amount of space required for the Sped Dept of HS and MS.

- Review steps for completing renovation proposal for bond preparation

- I. Finalize Scope of Proposed Elementary School Renovations

- 1. Review Engineering Data
    - 2. Finalize Scope and Cost
    - 3. Complete Drawings

- ii. District Energy Audit: Cheryl presented with only opportunity of 3 minutes left in the meeting about what an Energy Audit entails. We will need to reschedule this discussion for a future meeting date. Cheryl began to talk to the committee about an Energy Savings Performance Contract. Regardless of the HS/MS projects renovations need to be completed at all of the other school. We need to achieve some efficiencies. She gave the example of using biomass vs. regular fuel oil, switching to LED lights as another cost savings measure. An Energy Performance Contract would reduce capital investment. Would need to be considered separate from HS/MS Bond vote. Cheryl said we would need to look for someone to partner with on this venture-request for qualifications. This would allow us to move forward on these projects sooner than waiting for the bond vote. Much more discussion and information needs to happen however we ran out of time on the agenda tonight.

- iii. Cost/Benefit Analysis for project

- 1. Finalize budget for project
    - 2. Financing Costs
    - 3. Budget Implications

#### 4. Tax Implications

#### iv. Project Timeline - Construction process, etc. (based on 2020 Town Meeting day)

- Community Outreach Plan: Fall/Winter of 2019 (Vote on Town Meeting Day 2020)
- Summer Planning and meeting schedule
- Adjourn: Angela Charron made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. this was seconded by Jason Rasco.

An August 5th meeting at 5:30 was recommended as the next Innovation Committee Meeting. It was suggested not having it before a Board meeting so there is time to complete the agenda. This will be held at ARSU/Slate Valley office at FHUHS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Lenihan