

Minutes
Long Term Facilities Planning Committee
Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Committee Members Present: Peter Horoschak, William Sangster, Robert Bushell, Richard D'Agostino, Anthony Ferrucci, Ed Racca, Patricia Nazareth, Catherine Bonang, Frank Ricci, Lynn Dambruch, Nancy Plumb, Paul Cannistra, Amie Galipeau, Jackie Harris-Connor, William McCaffrey, David Testa

Advisory and Resource Members Present: Stephen Chrabaszcz, Jeffrey Taylor, Marie Cote, John Livsey, Dianne Silvia, Paul Jansson

Dr. Horoschak introduced Kevin Dillon, President and CEO of RI Airport Corporation, who addressed the committee regarding the plans for airport expansion and the impact to the community and school district.

Mr. Dillon

- The City of Warwick has filed to sue the FAA and challenge the record of decision enabling the lengthening of Green Airport's main runway and extending the safety areas of the shorter runway.
- The plan is for an 8,700 foot extension to the south with a realignment of Main Avenue. Mr. Dillon brought a map which showed the proposed runway extension on the south side of the airport. "Conceptual engineering" of the south runway project...does not answer specifically how close the extension will be to John Wickes Elementary School. Mr. Dillon offered a guestimate of 200 to 400 feet from Wickes, which "could shift by 100 feet either way."
- TF Greene is a medium hub airport; runway expansion will not mean larger carriers than it already serves. Twelve additional long haul flights and non-stop flights to West Coast to be achieved based on increased fuel capacity.
- The intersection of Airport Road and Post Road may shift 500 to 1000 feet North. Also, RIAC has agreed to relocate the Winslow Park playing fields that would be taken by the extension.
- The T.F. Green Airport Improvement Program is available for public review at the Warwick Public Libraries
- Two ways to acquire residential and business properties: Mandatory--Homes and businesses that would be acquired to construct airport improvements. (Eminent domain could be applied.) Voluntary--Homes that could be eligible for acquisition for noise mitigation. Mr. Dillon will provide a list of street names where homes may be impacted by acquisition for noise mitigation.
- 280 homes already acquired. Approximately 140 additional homes could be acquired by RIAC due to runway expansion, 60 of which could be purchased on a voluntary basis. Another 70 homes could be acquired on a voluntary acquisition due to being in a high noise contour.
- RIAC will not have an accurate understanding of noise or health impact until the engineering plans are complete.

- Air quality monitoring program in place for 5 years, with 4 monitoring sites reporting data to the Health Department. Noise and pollution have “no impact” on John Wickes Elementary or St. Rose Lima schools.
- During construction, Main Avenue will stay in place and access to John Wickes School will not be obstructed.
- Timeline: Construction north and south of airport was expected to be complete in 2015, but the challenge by the City of Warwick will delay the process eighteen months to three years.

Mr. Sangster:

Mr. Sangster presented a PowerPoint presentation to include consolidation options of our junior, senior high schools and moving district sixth graders to junior high schools to create 6-8 grade schools. The presentation also included, from Mr. Jansson, floor plans, school capacity charts, figures for basic building operational and improvement costs, and facility descriptions. This PowerPoint presentation may be found on the Warwick Public Schools website under Long Term Facilities Planning Committee.

- Reasonable Capacity is 25% of Maximum Capacity. Note: Weighted students at junior high schools are counted as 2. At the high schools, weighted students are counted as 1.5, with the exception of intensive students who are counted as 2.
- Mr. Cannistra offered another option: consolidate all 3 junior high schools into their respective high schools and expand the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center, making it into a grades 9-12 home school, utilizing the Winman facility.
- Buildings age range from 1939 to 1970. Some buildings cannot be adapted to technology because of the thickness of the walls.
- Feeder patterns may have to change.
- Space concerns: cafeteria, gym, lockers, lab and band rooms.
- There are more labs at Veterans HS than the chart depicts.
- Over populating the schools would diminish the education of the students. Need to consider what is educationally sound.

Mr. Jansson

- In reviewing page 12, *Facilities Descriptions, Building Areas and Capacities*, under *Classrooms* (bottom left of page) change Maximum capacity to Reasonable capacity.
- Pilgrim, Toll Gate, Veterans and Winman have steel skeletal frames which would make construction projects easier. Aldrich and Gorton Junior High Schools have load bearing interior and exterior walls with concrete frames.
- Athletic fields would have to be upgraded at Toll Gate. The cost would be significant. Mr. Chrabaszcz said there is enough open space to expand.
- If we retain fields at a closed school, would it be necessary to expand Toll Gate’s field?
- Fire Code Action Plan to update will be done in 3 phases. Do not want to spend money on a school that is to be closed. Note last page of Mr. Jansson’s report:

- figures for costs savings if building is closed and figures for capital improvements needed if building is retained.
- Cafeterias may need to be expanded. SODEXO can be invited to address the Committee regarding lunch schedules in large schools.
 - Building Area (square foot)...allowable student count per RIDE, for senior high school occupancy, 185/sqft per student. Allowable student count per RIDE, for junior high school occupancy, 160 sqft per student.
 - Greene could house Administration

Mr. Bushell

Enrollment Trends: NESDEC enrollment projections have been less than 1% off the actual enrollment.

- Three factors which have the greatest influence on future enrollments: decrease in number of births to Warwick residents, fluctuating migration (real estate bought and sold) and during difficult economic times, more residents remain in, or return to, public schools.
- Warwick Public Schools has lost population
- 66% of Warwick residents do not have children in school
- Warwick does not have all day Kindergarten
- A committee member suggested moving 6th grade up to junior high schools, which would allow space for full day kindergarten program in elementary school facilities.
- Some 6th grade feeder districts would change
- A parent expressed concern about 7th graders in a high school setting.
- Also, concern expressed about 6th graders in same setting with 8th graders.

After much discussion on consolidation options, operational and improvement costs of the buildings, and enrollment trends, it was decided:

- Mr. Sangster, at the next meeting, would present the school maps to show what the schools would look like with junior high schools placed into Pilgrim and Veterans with dedicated space to consider them a “separate entity.”
 - Toll Gate High School is “tight” right now. Dedicating separate classrooms at Toll Gate for junior high school inclusion would be very difficult.
- Dr. Horoschak said the City, with its financial constraints, expects the school department to look at ways to economize, but not at the expense of our programs. The Committee, he said, needs to look at consolidation in terms of what we value for our students and the long term direction for the school district to provide facilities to support those needs.
- Dr. Horoschak will speak with his directors regarding a time frame within which they can have material ready for the next meeting.
- Date for the next meeting will be set by the Superintendent and the Committee will be notified.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm

