

Minutes
Long Term Facilities Planning Committee Meeting
September 24, 2013

Superintendent D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm with the following in attendance.

Richard D'Agostino	*Mark Carruolo	Mary Townsend
Dennis Mullen	Catherine Bonang	*David Testa
*Robert Bushell	Ed Racca	* Nancy Plumb
Amie Galipeau	Jacqueline Harris-Connor	Patty Nazareth
William McCaffrey	Lynn Dambruch	*Stephanie Van Patten

*Arrived at 4:05 pm

Action Item:

Approval of Minutes:

Motion 2013-21: Moved by Richard D'Agostino, seconded by William McCaffrey, to approve the September 9, 2013 minutes.

Motion passes (13-0)

Superintendent Remarks:

Dr. D'Agostino told the committee that we will begin a tour of the high school with Principal Habershaw. He requested committee members refrain from asking questions of Mr. Habershaw during the tour as the committee and Mr. Habershaw will return to the auditorium for a question and answer session. Cathy Bonang presented the committee with a checklist/rubric (see attached) to be utilized by committee members when touring the high school.

New Business:

Principal Gerry Habershaw guided the committee throughout the building, to include classrooms, labs and gymnasiums. The committee also went outside to view all the fields and grounds at Veterans High School. Mr. Habershaw pointed out, among other things, the fire code upgrades at Veterans and how many of these improvements, to include fresh paint, etc. has improved the look and feel of the school tremendously. Upon conclusion of the tour committee members and Mr. Habershaw returned to the auditorium for questions from committee members.

Question: How many lunches are served in the cafeteria?

Answer: Four. The cafeteria has a capacity of 380.

Question: The raised platforms throughout the school, were they once used to house additional lockers?

Answer: Yes

Question: How many unused lockers?

Answer: I don't really know...maybe 200. Principal Habershaw went on to say that some lockers, the boys' locker rooms and some ceiling tiles are the items at Veterans HS which are in need of repair or updating.

Question: How do disabled students get to the second floor?

Answer: There is an elevator right outside the main office. Also, there are ramps in front of the gym and main entrance. If there was an emergency alert, students in wheelchairs go to a "safe room."

Question: How many rooms are not used all day?

Answer: 1 not used; 1 partially used (for health class)

Question: How many labs have projectors?

Answer: 30 classrooms have smartboards; 4 classrooms with LCD projectors; 5 carts with LCD projectors...which can be wheeled from classroom to classroom. Veterans High School has 1 Chromecart.

Question: How is the parking for students and staff?

Answer: More than adequate. Mr. Habershaw went on to say that there are three entrances to Veterans HS....From Oakland Beach, Sandy Lane and West Shore Roads.

Mr. Racca mentioned traffic congestion on West Shore Road in the morning, but said that the same traffic congestion problem is at Pilgrim HS.

Question: How many busses go to Veterans?

Answer: 6 busses

Question: What is the percentage of walkers?

Answer: More than half the students either walk, drive, or get a ride with friends.

Question: How does physical education function in 2nd and 3rd quarters (with inclement weather)?

Answer: We utilize the stage, small auditorium, the 2 gyms. We have also utilized the ice rink, bowling-ally and pool at McDermott.

Question: Is the school utilized by the community?

Answer: Yes, all the time. The athletic fields, he stated, are also used by community programs.

Mr. Racca said he wasn't sure about Toll Gate HS Auditorium but Pilgrim's auditorium and fields are utilized all the time by outside groups as well.

Question: What is the breakdown of the “academies”?

Answer: We have four: Leadership, Bio-Tech, Athletic and the Career Tech Center program (Marine Biology). Mr. Habershaw went on to say that every year he meets with the 8th graders at Gorton High School and recruits 15 students to track for career and tech center classes. In following these children over the last 4 years, 50% recruited graduated and are employed. He strongly believes that 9th graders should be allowed the opportunity to enroll in Career Center programs.

Question: Does Veterans High School have a community service program for students?

Answer: Yes, it is part of the Leadership Academy.

Question: Can the auditorium fit (seating) the school’s population?

Answer: Yes, the capacity of the auditorium is 1008. Mr. Habershaw went on to say that the first year he was at Veterans HS, it could not fit all the enrolled students and now it easily can.

With no additional questions for Mr. Habershaw, the Committee thanked him for his time.

The committee agreed that the checklist/rubric, presented from Mrs. Bonang, would be used by this committee for all schools toured. (See attached) The completed rubrics will be forwarded to the office of the superintendent where the information will be compiled accordingly and presented to the committee.

A question to the superintendent: How much acreage at Veterans HS compared to the acreage at Pilgrim HS? Dr. D’Agostino said that he has that information in his office and will forward to all committee members tomorrow.

The committee discussed considering “adding students” to the rubric (high school vs. junior high school capacity numbers). Dennis Mullen said the numbers for grades 7 and 8 would be about the same (capacity) as what Veterans is now.

Ed Racca asked if the library space has “been made” smaller than it use to be. Cathy Bonang (secretary at Veterans HS) confirmed that it is not smaller. The superintendent thought that because the hallway windows were removed, due to fire code upgrades, it may appear to look smaller.

David Testa asked if the Marine Trades Program (Career Center class) is housed at Veterans. Bill McCaffrey said it was and the Child Development Program is housed at Pilgrim. Mr. Testa asked if the committee voted to close Veterans would they (Career Center) lose the program? Mr. Caffrey said they would not lose the program, it would be moved. Dr. D’Agostino said the intention is to expand Career Center programs.

Mr. Racca asked if the committee could have the administrator’s position, upon completion of the tours, on the best utilization of our schools. Dr. D’Agostino replied yes. Mr. Mullen said he is currently developing a model with splitting the community. Mr. Racca said that Pilgrim has low bearing walls,

which would allow for “dropping lines” for technology. Mr. McCaffrey pointed out that Veterans HS has a basement where lines could run from.

Mr. Bushell raised discussion on touring Toll Gate High School. He asked the committee....is it practical to consider closing Toll Gate at this time? He pointed out that Toll Gate is the newest of the three high schools and is being looked at for future consolidation needs of the district. Mr. Testa said that Toll Gate can be looked at for future all day K and possibly for a middle school concept. Dr. D’Agostino said he did receive emails from a couple of committee members inquiring if there is really a need to tour Toll Gate now. Cathy Bonang said it would be unfair to the community and this committee not to look at Toll Gate High School. Stephanie Van Patten asked if Toll Gate might become the Career Center in 10 years and that this should be taken into consideration. Mr. Testa said we (the committee) cannot project that far ahead.

Motion 2013-22: Moved by Nancy Plumb, seconded by Cathy Bonang to tour Toll Gate HS.
Motion passes (12-1) *Bob Bushell voted not to tour Toll Gate High School

The Committee agreed, with a show of hands, to tour Pilgrim High School on Monday, September 30th, 4:00 pm.

Motion 2013-23: Moved by Robert Bushell, seconded by Dennis Mullen to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm