

Worcester Central School District Building Advisory Committee Meeting
February 3, 2005

Mr. Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
Agenda was handed out.

Minutes of previous meeting were accepted.

Mr. Selover gave an update of the gym wall situation. We are using the cafeteria now for some gym classes. An independent firm's report also stated the gym wall is not in good shape. They however recommended a different type of repair, using expansion joints. This will be checked further. Our Insurance Company has also sent an engineer to examine. We will get that report this week. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Selover will get together and sort this out. When a decision is made on how to handle the repairs the community will be made aware.

Mr. Selover has heard comments about extra rooms for the building project. This plan does meet our needs. Trends do not show a growth in the district. The current plan is based on current staffing but not talking about ½ position in science or math or any additional space needed. Mrs. Shalor stated that she would be happy with the extra rooms.

Concern: Plan doesn't allow for new classrooms. We don't conceive new enrollments but also don't allow for new programs.

Mr. Taylor estimated approximately \$300,000 to add a new classroom.

Mrs. Lewis reminded that some rooms could be used during free periods for these new programs.

We started with an \$18.6 mil project (estimated cost with modifications to bus garage). Now with inflation and changes up to \$20,507,926. Money bid has to go into project.

If the project is approved the Architects go into detail and submit to State Education Dept. for approval. Then the bidding process begins.

Mr. Sweeney did a review through the project with the committee of all areas. Let's see if we are all comfortable with what we have. The intent of the committee is to frame out the recommendations for this project for the Board. Possibly then we could break into small groups for discussion on ways to educate the public.

Mr. Parker thanked Mrs. Empie for allowing him to join the committee and also to Mr. Nagle for catching him up to speed on what the committee has been working on. Mr. Parker spoke of where he stands and would like to see committee vote on previous plans. He would also like to see a money breakdown.

Mr. Sweeney thought that this has been determined previously. Committee asked if they would like to go back and review other plans? Committee did not wish to go back. Let's continue through with current plan and review.

Mr. Lehenbauer stated that he doesn't see a \$21 mil project passing. We took out things in the garage and then we put them back in. But, he also doesn't feel he has an answer because there are things here that we have to do.

Mrs. Lewis stated that sure there are things here we have to do such as windows, cafeteria, etc. but doesn't know that we should go back and start over. We can't keep waiting. She doesn't know what the answer is either but knows we need to do something.

February 3, 2005

Mrs. Horne brought her taxes here and asked Mr. Nagle for some input. He explained it to her and she sees now that it is not as bad as she thought. We need to be able to do this for everyone.

Mr. Nagle said that he could show tax rates from historical point and that is for basic maintenance. The only place costs have gone down is teacher retirement, because of investments.

Mrs. Lewis feels that if we cut from the project now we may have to go back sooner with another project to cover additional needs. We have to do it right now.

We need to educate the public versus “hoodwink”. We need to help public understand why we want out of the cafeteria. We have to keep explaining.

Mr. Nagle stated his concern is that one perception is this project does everything and to the max. His goal – can we pare some things back to show that we have manicured it? For example, on the bus garage, could we go a little less?

Mr. Nagle stated that he could come up with a formula for people to use to figure taxes. It would have to consider the levels for star. It also depends on equalization rate.

Mr. Sweeney asked if anyone felt there were areas that were more enriched than they needed to be? Let’s go back to reviewing the plan.

Mrs. Shalor spoke with teachers from Morris about their project. There were some decorating things in Morris that were extreme. The copper on internal roofs within the gym? Mr. Taylor stated that was their project and the price of copper changes drastically and at that time it was cheaper to use copper than painted metal. It was a nice detail that was actually cheaper. Mr. Sweeney reminded that this back to the perception issue. People would have to know that copper was cheaper.

Auditorium – could we leave it and not renovate? No, besides renovating the auditorium it would eliminate the classrooms that are now in balcony and relocate them to a better location.

Media Center – this would allow instructional space so that a class could go into the library without occupying the entire library. This is a combined elementary and high school space.

Mr. McTaggart asked if plans are to increase instructional or stay as we are now? Mr. Selover stated there would not be much change, just updates.

Question on computers for computer lab? If we purchase computers as part of the new computer lab in the project they are aidable.

Pre-K Classroom – is it necessary? Mrs. Wright stated that as a teacher working with this, Yes it is necessary. We need to have the skills development. Many children are not ready for Kindergarten. There was discussion on if this was need or could we switch to one kindergarten class and one Pre-K class? We don’t have staffing for a Pre-K now. Should it be eliminated? Mr. Fancher stated his concern was that this room be used for a special education class. We need the room for special education. Special ed. class would be aidable and Pre-K is not aided. Mr. Fancher reminded that by the time we complete the project the students we are now talking about returning to our district would have graduated. We need to be pro-active not re-active. We can

February 3, 2005

have programs here that would prepare our students and stop new students from starting at BOCES special ed classes.

This current project does not give additional classrooms for special ed but does take the classes off the balcony and allows for 3 larger more comfortable spaces for the special ed rooms.

Science Classrooms – we need these. Our current labs are in more shape, old and outdated.

Mr. McTaggart stated that we talk of others but what about special achievers? Advancement? Mr. Selover mentioned about ½ time science or math teacher – we could use for this. This would then be a staffing issue, not a space issue.

Mr. Perrillo stated that we are going backward. Anyone can make a list of pros and cons. Where could we conceivably cut costs?

Mr. Selover stated, the fact of the matter, if approved we could then re-do staffing to try to put in extra classes.

Instrument/Vocal Music – plan is adequate.

Home Careers/Technology – no issues.

Administration – relocation of offices and convert present area to classrooms.

Mr. Nagle doesn't feel the offices have to be so grand and that Administrator should be in a different location in the building. Mr. Taylor stated that in this plan the offices are not grand. The current Business Office has to come down, they took the same size and relocated it more convenient for the public.

Mrs. Horne asked if teachers were involved in setting plan? Yes, Mr. Taylor did meet with faculty and staff regarding the plan.

Mr. Taylor reminded that this is not the final plan. It has to be detailed. The Building Committee could be part of this procedure if the Board so deemed.

When asked how he could come up with a final cost figure Mr. Taylor stated that there comes a time we have to trust him to do his job.

Mr. Perrillo stated that if we give people tax rates it wouldn't be accurate as far as including routine costs. No, you would have to show tax rates with the project which would be separate from tax rates with just routine cost of budget increase.

Equalization rates also enter into this. Currently Worcester is at 92% of full value.

Mr. Clark stated that everyone has different opinions and understanding. People trust us to decide what we need. He feels we can't keep waiting for a project and costs to go up.

February 3, 2005

Mr. Sweeney asked if committee could list some general recommendations.

The Committee would like to Board to consider project with the following modifications:

- 1) Proposed two way traffic on entrance be changed to one way plan with loop around the building;
- 2) Proposed bus garage would eliminate the training room, with public restrooms added in;
- 3) It is anticipated that plan address the current concern in gym;
- 4) The Pre-K room should be converted to a Special Ed. room for district children.

Committee agreed that this was on target.

Mr. Sweeney will get recommendations done up and get to committee members for review before submitting to the Board. Originally he would try to have for Board by next meeting but that is a little short now. He will get to Board as soon as committee reviews.

Mrs. Horne asked that statement also include that Committee requests effort be made to keep extravagance out.

Mr. Taylor stated that the project is done according to the wants of the District. They can change however needed.

Discussion on key points in providing information to the public.

- 1) Committee has worked hard to review and address issues financial responsibility and voted to propose this project;
- 2) It addresses health and safety;
- 3) Need to go through the different parts of the project and justify why;
- 4) Need to show how the state aid works and how this project maximizes state aid;
- 5) Cost issue needs to be brought up front. We need to show what the costs of “inaction” would be not just cost of project.

Mr. Nagle stated that he would like to see the Board and Administration review final development. All Administration should not be together in same location in the building.

Some other areas discussed were:

- * The budget should show how we plan to maintain this project so we would not be in this spot again.
- * We should show the permanent fix of gym wall

Question: In redesign why was a new gym abandoned?

Mr. Taylor stated that instructional space must have a window. The gym is interior space without windows. Have other things such as using ½ the gym for cafeteria or taking ½ gym down and then building new gym beyond that? Mr. Taylor advised yes, along with a second floor above café and café as multi-purpose room. Problem is central location of gym and also adding behind that would bring it even further out, closer to the pool.

Public:

Mrs. Nelson commented that we have talked about public perception. We should let the community know of all the hard work this committee has done reviewing and discussing this project and that it is not just the Board that is presenting a project to the public but also an entire committee of people who have reviewed it. Possibly when the Board does it's newsletter to the public of the building project the committee could have it's own article in it about the project.

Mr. Sweeney thanked everyone for coming. Meeting closed.

