

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES – MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2011

In attendance: Committee: Chairperson Katherine Driban, Thomas Hezel, Betty Huf
Board: Michael Hartline, Mark Miller, Thomas Reinboth.

Administration: Dr. Jenny Foight-Cressman, William R. Gretton, III, Thomas Golden, Wayne Robinson

Staff: Michael Baluk, Mindy Golden, Deborah Faehner, William Faehner, Eileen Eriksson, and Kathryn Dusen.

Public: Ryan Brennan, David Angle, Charles Loughery and Robert Schaffer.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Katherine Driban at 7:00 p.m. A motion by Ms. Huf to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting to be amended by adding the letter from Mr. Loughery that was read at the meeting; minutes were approved as amended. Seconded by Mr. Hezel. Ms. Driban abstained, because she had not attended the meeting. Motion carried 2-0-1.

Elementary Naming

Ms. Driban indicated according to Board policy that the naming of elementary schools has to be done before the full Board, this committee is not here even here to make a recommendation, this is where we call the forum so the discussion can take place for the Board to hear everything that has gone on. To date, the Board has only has enough signatures according to Board policy to forward to the entire Board, the recommendation for the naming to be Region 1; Davis Elementary; Region 2; McDonald Elementary; Region 3 Willow Dale Elementary. They will release it from Operations for discussion purposes by the full Board. The full Board will decide if they move forward only with that recommendation or whether it is opened back up to the community to try to get more signatures if there are others out there who feel strongly about different names. There were no additional comments from Board members. Mrs. Driban asked for community comments.

Mr. Loughery, who had retired from Centennial after a long-time relation 31 years as Teacher/Administrator and student for 6 years recommended that the Board consider retaining the name of Alta Leary at one of the sites. He praised her long association and reputation with the many staff and students in the school District and the people who worked with these individuals know that the district progressed with the support of Ms. Leary as an educational leader. Mr. Loughery supported including the name of Alta Leary at the current Region 3 School.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) – Tools for Schools Report

Mark Miller explained that the team had attended a conference in Washington, DC and that their goal was not to identify problems but to use scientific concepts developed through grants by the EPA to improve air quality through awareness in the district. The impact would be the use of more time, less money and operating expenses during the next 18 month period.

Mike Baluk, Building Supervisor at Leary explained the steps already in place, such as adjusting airflow levels, routinely replacing disposable filters, cleaning uni-vents and making certain that dampers are clean. Expectations have been high in Centennial. He emphasized the use of clear water for most clean-up for “green cleaning” rather than expensive solutions.

Tom Golden explained the EPA Symposium held January 13-15th where 400 attendees from different aspects of school environment shared experiences. They attended individual seminars in: HVAC Management, Mold & Moisture Control, Pest Management, Green Cleaning, Radon, and CO2 readings. The IAQ Team approach is used to identify IAQ issues by addressing causes and proposing solutions. The recommendation is to start pilot IAQ teams and address some of the technical as well as common sense problems. He noted that using the senses to detect issues and proper placement of equipment is all that is oft-times needed to remedy a problem. Mr. Golden proposed an IAQ Team, that would include Mr. Golden, Mr. Baluk and Mr. Miller to aid in improving the schools.

Mr. Miller indicated that absentee rates of students and staff may be reduced and test scores may increase with the proper monitoring of carbon dioxide in the environment. He proposed a budget expenditure of \$3500 the first year with \$750 incentive for each school to help identify the process. After the equipment is purchased, cost to the District should not exceed \$500 per year.

Ms. Huf stated that Mr. Baluk mentioned we are doing some of things already in the school and around the district. She questioned if we were already checking air quality—this is not new to us. It would now be a matter of moving on with the program and a committee. Mr. Miller suggested that the impact of measuring levels at different times of the day would benefit the operation.

Mr. Hezel indicated that the best step is to put more formalization into the process so it can be coordinated through the district. If there is a cost, it would be referred to Finance. He thought a good idea and we should go forward.

Ms. Driban commented essentially this committee would be made up mostly of staff and would be administrative in nature. It was brought to Operations so the Board would have an idea of what they were looking to do. She indicated if this committee was created, it would be to have brought to Board President to formally name Mr. Miller as a representative to this Committee and that any financial implications would go through the Finance Committee.

Mr. Schaeffer asked if the testing is being limited to carbon dioxide testing. Mr. Miller responded that other gases, such as radon, would also be tested. Mr. Miller indicated the Committee would report back quarterly.

Consolidation of Bus Stops

Mr. Robinson presented to the Board a plan to consolidate bus stops through the district so that students would utilize one bus stop throughout their schooling in Centennial or non-public schools. He presented information on the consolidation of bus stops. The stops would result in a saving of time for the bus runs and the satisfaction factor of the parents utilizing one bus stop. Students would have the same bus stops no matter what school they will be attending through the years. The District has 570 standard bus stops and these can be consolidated and keep students off of main roads

Ms. Driban asked if this was a phasing process or if this is a one-time fix? Mr. Robinson indicated this will be accomplished by September, 2011 so students become accustomed the consolidated stops.

Mr. Hezel asked if the current stops will not conflict based upon the school of destination? The destination will change, not the bus stop.

Ms. Driban asked if the Special Education stops would upset this system. Mr. Robinson indicated that the Special Education students are reviewed each year and accommodated based upon need. Ms. Driban asked if the Board would need to review the policy concerning bus stops. Mr. Robinson indicated that this change conformed to the policy.

Ms. Huf clarified the consolidation of the students in a particular area. Mr. Robinson confirmed that the stop would be the same, but the time of the pick-up will be different.

Mr. Hezel indicated that the Board would need to take a strong stand on bus stop changes requested from the public. Ms. Huf indicated that at times the bus stop was a safety issue and the Board would need to consider. The Board agreed to consider this when a formal proposal is presented.

Late Bus Run Review

Mr. Robinson reviewed the elimination of late runs from the Middle Schools. There have been no significant reductions in participation of the after-school activities but there were concerns over discipline between HS and MS students. There have been some problems, but no significant increase from the past. Some concerns have been expressed over "office" hours and shorter practices, but this has not been a major issue. There were concerns about reduction of activities and clubs, and there has not been that much affect on the calendar.

Ms. Driban asked if there was anything we could do to adjust the times a little to accommodate more students. Mr. Robinson indicated there was nothing that could be done at the High School and the changes at the Middle School may cause an impact on other times that the buses are running.

Mr. Reinboth asked what the impact of the reductions in Office and Club participation have had and would like to see if there is any adjustments that could be made to accommodate students. Mr. Robinson indicated that the numbers came from the High School and he indicated that there were no specific numbers available. He indicated that with the consolidation of buildings, the only resolution was to add buses to the fleet. Mr. Miller was concerned with the reductions and the impact on students. Mr. Hartline asked if the Administration could secure some data from the High School.

Ms. Driban asked if the High School and Middle Schools could be placed on a dual run and provide two runs for each location. Mr. Robinson indicated that the buses could not be at the High School at 3:45 p.m. due to the elementary runs. Mr. Hartline asked that a budget projection be provided for the proposals. Mr. Robinson indicated that the extra runs were projected to cost approximately \$80,000 per year. He indicated that he could project the cost and that the drivers may have some “dead” time between the runs.

William Tennent High School Change Orders

Mr. Brennan reviewed change orders 121, 183, and 184 in the amount of \$120,376.72 for the William Tennent High School Additions and Renovations Project and 007, 011 and 052 in the amount of \$151,386.17 for the Region III Elementary School and recommended their approval.

Ms. Driban noted concern for the High School project with the District nearing the end and exhausting the contingency moneys. Mr. Brennan explained and the Board discussed the addition of the Planetarium and that the cost would make it impossible to come within the limits of the contingency fund. Mr. Miller suggested that there was still an opportunity to award naming rights to the Planetarium to obtain some outside funding.

Mr. Gretton expressed concerns for the validity of change orders that were seen as “unforeseen” circumstances. Following discussion, the Board directed Mr. Gretton to review the change order issues and report if there were items that were the result of errors on the specifications rather than requested change orders.

Mr. Hartline suggested that the Board may need to consider other reductions at Elementary project and although the change orders need to be approved, a review should take place. Mr. Hartline asked if the District had an engineering firm on retainer to review CO to see if there is any opportunity for some recovery of costs.

Mr. Shaffer asked about next steps and ramifications.

Mr. Hezel motion to move the changes to the full Board and file any appropriate PlanCon documents related to the change orders. On voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Driban noted that there has been no written report on the High School for several months. Mr. Brennan indicated that a report was to be filed after the results of this meeting were known.

Mr. Brennan provided a report on progress at the High School. He indicated that the auditorium will be ready for Senior Awards celebration. Ms. Driban asked that a tour be scheduled.

Mr. Angle reported that Reynolds would be providing with a Region I & II look at overall budget once the bids have been received. Region I bids are to be received 3/10/2011 with as long as the appropriate approvals are received.

Mr. Angle noted that Region II approvals had been received from the Sewer Authority and PennDot while Burt Hill is responding to comments to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Driban thanked the public for the support in the demolition of Davis Elementary.

Ms. Driban discussed the proposed Hall of History which would be proposed for some visible venue, such as the lobby of High School. The goal is to get Community involved in showing evolution of merging of communities to current day activities. The starting point is to get people involved and interested citizens should contact Ms. Driban for any involvement. Ms. Huf indicated she had talked to prior administrators and she supported the idea.

Facility Use Fee Schedule:

It was recommended that the Facility Use Fee Schedule be placed on the Board agenda because there are no changes from prior year. Mr. Miller suggested that the Board consider another year with the appropriate increases (2%) as intended. Mr. Hezel made a motion to move the Facility Use Fee Schedule for 2010-11 and 2011-12 to the full Board. All in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Driban noted that the next meeting of the Operations Committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 6, 2011.

Adjournment:

Moved by Ms. Huf and seconded by Mr. Hezel to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Gretton III
Assistant to the Superintendent