

Summary of School Board Discussions and/or Motions Related to High School Project

September 1, 2015 Work Session:

Board Discussion

A. HHS Enrollment Growth and Options

Chair Kohen opened up discussion:

School Board members held discussion on some possible options to deal with increased growth at Harrisonburg High School along with some pros and cons to each option. The Board will hold a public hearing time on their meeting agenda in October, November and December to gather public input on growth at Harrisonburg High School.

Board also discussed the need for Dr. Kizner and his staff to begin looking for available land. A joint meeting with City Council was also suggested to provide information to Council on growth issues at the high school and on the direction the Board is headed.

At the September 15, 2015, regular board meeting, Architect Bob Moje will give another presentation on the Capital Improvement Study that was conducted on Harrisonburg High School and Thomas Harrison Middle School. Council members will also be encouraged to attend.

October 6, 2015 Regular Meeting:

Held Public Hearing on options to alleviate overcrowdedness at HHS.

November 3, 2015 Regular Meeting:

Held Public Hearing on options to alleviate overcrowdedness at HHS.

December 1, 2015 Regular Meeting:

Held Public Hearing on options to alleviate overcrowdedness at HHS.

December 14, 2015 Special Meeting:

Held discussion at Board work session on high school options to alleviate overcrowdedness.

Board Discussion

HHS Overcrowdedness and Options

Dr. Kizner presented and reviewed a handout on high school building options (instructional considerations) (see attached). He shared information on a recent visit to Charlottesville High School and informed Board members that they would have an opportunity to visit as well. Dr. Kizner told Board members that his vision was for building an annex for a potential innovative learning center, e.g. science, math, STEM or Fine Arts Academies, AVID, Career and Technical Education courses, etc. He stated he thinks we could make a really great high school campus. Noted that the unique needs of students is very important and even though the Board may want a new high school, funding from Council will make the decision.

The following comments were made along with discussion:

Mrs. Wilson:

- City's best long-term interest is to build a new high school
- recognizes the hurdle of funding
- if an annex is built, prefers that it is built on the same property as current high school; however, if sports fields are removed to build the annex, they need to be replaced on another piece of property
- asked if athletic fields could be built across the street or on other property to allow space for building on the high school site.

Mr. Holsinger:

- interested in any information regarding if a 600-800 student facility was built, could we use it later for something else later down the road if necessary
- doesn't get the sense that there is an overwhelming urge for a new high school from the community
- in support of an annex

Mrs. Rooney:

- need to build with the long-term plan in mind
- likes the idea of building on the high school property if possible
- would like to see what other divisions are doing with separate buildings (Dr. Kizner will get a schedule for January to make visits).

Mr. Swayne:

- feels a short-term plan is very important also to relieve the overcrowdedness.

Mr. Domonoske:

- people have mentioned to him they are more interested in curriculum needs and if they are being met
- likes the idea of an innovation center (STEM, math, science, etc.)
- would like to be able to tell the public that as a Board, we are making better instruction--not only making more space available.

Mr. Domonoske asked if staff could bring a list of options for proposed curriculum programs or options for an annex to the next meeting.

There was a concensus of the Board, that at the January 5 meeting, they would announce that their decision is headed in the direction of an on-site annex IF more land is provided to move athletic fields.

Dr. Kizner commented to the media representatives in attendance that the Board has been discussing this issue for at least 5 months, including holding 3 public hearings.

January 5, 2016 Regular Meeting:

"After multiple public hearings for the sole purpose of community input and multiple work sessions dedicated to the discussion of options to address the Harrisonburg High School growth and space issues, we, the school board, are prepared to make our formal recommendation to the community. It is important for this community to know that we have not taken this task lightly, we have given a tremendous amount of thought and consideration to all options, all comments and concerns, all the data (internal and external), and the fiscal implications a new facility will have. Ultimately, we are charged with making decisions that are in the best interest of the current and future students and families in our community. It is our recommendation that we build a detached Annex with kitchen facilities to Harrisonburg High School on the existing HHS site, **with the caveat that any existing Harrisonburg High School facility, including but not limited to, outdoor sports fields/recreational facilities and parking lots, removed for the construction of the new building will be rebuilt at a separate location**, preferably as close to the HHS site as possible. The purchase of land will be required for that purpose."

January 25, 2016 Joint School Board/City Council Meeting:

School Board/City Council joint meeting for discussion of building projects and preliminary budget planning information.

February 2, 2016 Regular Meeting:

High School Building Project RFP Discussion

Move to direct the Superintendent and staff to issue an RFP for architectural, engineering and related services for design and construction of an 800 student building to be located on the current Harrisonburg High School property. The scope of the work should include the cost associated with replacing any existing facility (e.g. sports facilities, parking lots) to another location at a site across from the high school property for review by School Board prior to release.

Motion by Brent L Holsinger, second by Nick D Swayne.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Tom D Domonoske, Kelly L Rooney, Brent L Holsinger, Andy I Kohen, Nick D Swayne, Kerri M Wilson

April 5, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Mobile Units Update

An update on Mobile Units was given by Craig Mackail (see attached). Four additional mobile units will be installed at Harrisonburg High School for the 2016-2017 school year and 4 additional mobile units are anticipated for the 2017-2018 school year. Also next year one other mobile unit will be placed at another school location depending on need.

High School RFP Schedule

Craig Mackail presented the draft RFP schedule for the high school annex. RFP's are due Friday April 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Board decided to discuss and create a short list on April 19 at the Board's work session.

Mr. Domonoske asked about timeline for preschool discussion. Chair Wilson commented that the architects would be coming on April 11 to present updated numbers to the Board so City Council could have that information for their meeting on April 12

April 11 special meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Harrisonburg School Board Office.

Dr. Kizner questioned interview dates on RFP schedule. Suggested that the Board meet before or after their already scheduled meetings.

Board decided to meet on Monday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Harrisonburg School Board Office for first round of architect interviews and on May 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Harrisonburg School Board Office (before Board's regular meeting) for the second round of architect interviews.

The May 17, 2016 work session was changed to a 7:00 p.m. regular meeting in Council Chambers.

April 19, 2016 Special Meeting:

Closed session discussion held on architectural-related services with regard to a possible new high school annex

April 25, 2016 Special Meeting:

Closed session discussion held on architectural-related services with regard to a possible new high school annex

May 3, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Approval of Pre-Design and Schematic Services

Move to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate with Moseley Architects for Pre-Design and Schematic Services for the high school annex expansion.

Motion by Andy I Kohen, second by Nick D Swayne.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Tom D Domonoske, Brent L Holsinger, Andy I Kohen, Nick D Swayne, Kerri M Wilson

June 7, 2016 Regular Meeting:

High School Building Update

Craig Mackail gave an update on the high school expansion project. In May, Mr. Mackail met with Ms. Prieto, HHS Principal, and Jim Henderson, Moseley Architects, to set up a schedule for the planning and execution of the expansion. The first group of about 10 staff members will meet on June 20 to establish programming and look at various options on location. After this meeting, Moseley will review this information to get a clear picture of what we want and then a larger group consisting of teachers, students, administrators, parents, etc. will meet on September 8 and 9 to discuss what they see for for this expansion (programs). Then Moseley will take a look at everything and present back to the Board.

June 21, 2016 Work Session

Board approved the board chair to sign the contract with Moseley Architects on the high school annex.

October 4, 2016 Regular Meeting:

HHS Extension Project Summary from Moseley Architects (see attached)

October 18, 2016, Work Session:

HHS Expansion Project

Jim Henderson, Moseley Architects, was present to answer questions regarding Moseley's presentation at the October 4 Board meeting where they shared the results of the HHS expansion study which recommended an addition to Harrisonburg High School.

Closed session held for discussion on land.

December 6, 2016 Regular Meeting:

High School Expansion Update - Moseley Architects (see attached).

February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting:

High School RFP Discussion

Craig Mackail discussed the proposed RFP (see attached) for a study of a new stand alone high school and explained the process.

Board members stated several times to try to make it clear that this does NOT mean that the Board has decided to build a new high school.

Move to approve to issue the presented RFP for architectural-engineering and related services for design and construction of a stand-alone high school facility.

Motion by Nick D Swayne, second by Deb S Fitzgerald.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Brent L Holsinger, Andy I Kohen, Nick D Swayne, Lauren B Penrod, Deb S Fitzgerald, Kaylene R Seigle

Hunter Communications - Next Step

Dr. Kizner discussed the outline for Phase 1 of the implementation of community engagement process. Asked Board members to send nominations of those individuals they feel would be good for the community engagement group to Lisa Knupp.

Chair Kohen discussed the possibility of one school board member to serve on this committee - Deb Fitzgerald volunteered.

This will be discussed at the February 21 Liaison Committee.

February 14, 2017 Joint School Board/City Council Meeting:

Discussion on tentative building program.

February 21, 2017 Work Session:

10-Year Enrollment Projections presentation (see attached)

10-Year Enrollment Projections

Dr. Kizner - shared information from the K12 Enrollment study (see attached) showing enrollment projections over the next 10 years which was done to compare to the Weldon Cooper Center projections.

Mr. Kohen - commented that the pattern is what reveals the projection.

Dr. Kizner - noted that in 2026 kindergarten numbers get higher again so one might suggest that you could carry those kids about 13 more years to see cohort movement of growth.

Ms. Fitzgerald - shared that she has been rereading the 2015 Housing Analysis and provided a handout of information that refers to student housing that could possibly be used as family homes in the future. Also she commented that the Weldon Cooper pattern was confirmed.

Dr. Kizner - referred to the question at the joint meeting which suggested that Rockingham County might be interested in a joint complex. Has spoken to Dr. Fenn and her response was clear that she is not aware of any need to expand high school capacity in Rockingham.

H.S. Study Committee - Phase I

Dr. Kizner - shared that 23 people have agreed to serve and is waiting to hear back from 2-3 other people. Committee will have a good cross reference of our community members. First meeting is scheduled for March 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the School Board Office. At this meeting, a calendar will be discussed to set a schedule--hopes to have about 4-6 meetings at the most. The list of committee members will be forwarded to the Board soon.

Chair Kohen is working with Mayor Reed to try to schedule the next joint School Board/City Council meeting--hoping for June 8.

Dr. Kizner - commented that a timeline of recommended decision point dates will be developed.

Closed session held for discussion on land.

March 7, 2017 Regular Meeting:

H.S. Space Study Phase I Committee announced.

March 21, 2017 Regular Meeting:

Review of H.S. Space Study Phase I Committee Work

March 28, 2017 Special Meeting:

Closed session held for discussion on architectural-related services with regard to a possible stand-alone high school facility.

April 4, 2017 Regular Meeting:

High School Space Study Review

April 18, 2017 Work Session:

High School Study Projected Operational Costs

Dr. Kizner commented that the High School Space Study Committee asked for potential projected operating costs for the three options: annex, addition, new high school. He then asked Tracy Shaver to explain the handout on Current vs. Projected Staffing & Operational Costs (see attached).

May 2, 2017 Regular Meeting:

May 11 High School Study Open House

Jim Orndoff, chair of the High School Space Study Committee, highlighted the May 11 Open House which will be held at Harrisonburg High School from 5-8:00 p.m. Community will be invited and able to ask questions.

May 16, 2017 Regular Meeting:

Davenport Group presented to Board (see attached).

High School Space Study presented and made recommendation (see attached).

VMDO presented - stand alone high school study (see attached).

Public Comment on High School Decision

Chair Kohen opened up the public comment time on the high school options/decision:

- Cynthia Prieto, HHS Principal - spoke of the social emotional side of the overcrowdedness and in favor of a new high school.
- Peter Johnson, 1150 S. Main Street - asked if committee looked at other large community high schools - not against building a new high school but wants Board to make sure we get it right this time. Knows the overcrowdedness is very difficult for the students.
- Jay Deck, 1040 Wellington Drive - read a statement on behalf of Kathleen Holter, HEA President, which spoke in favor of a new high school.

The following community members spoke regarding personal struggles that would be created for some community members if taxes are increased to pay for a new high school:

- Tom Yeake, 87 Sharon St.
- Laura Logie, 363 Hillandale Avenue - also proposed moving 9th grade to the middle school.
- Amina Stauber 974 Drake Lane (assistance from Dennis Cummins)
- Randy Kline, 480 Hartman Dr.

School Board Discussion on High School Options

Chair Kohen asked for any discussion. The following comments were made:

- Mr. Swayne referred to a flyer that's circulating in the community by the Republican Party and feels a lot of the public comment made is based on that flyer, specifically regarding tax increases. A lot of work and research has gone on for three years.
- Ms. Penrod shared some general misconceptions and commented that this is not a recent issue the board just started looking at, costs have continued to increase which has caused frustration, and it's unfair to say that the Space Study Committee didn't fully look at all options. Need to focus on what's going to happen in the long-term not the "now."
- Ms. Siegle questioned if part of the high cost is due to the architects we choose? Mr. Swayne explained that the projected cost is actually lower. Chair Kohen explained that all architects use the same information when figuring cost.
- Dr. Kizner commented that he feels VMDO looks at the children first and that it's a misconception that Bluestone is the most expensive elementary school built.
- Mr. Holsinger stated that he feels the process at this meeting has been good and all points are legitimate but there are a lot of pros and cons to weigh. Proud of committee for looking at all options and now the Board needs to try to make the best decision.
- Chair Kohen reiterated that a decision of the Board has not been made yet.
- Mrs. Fitzgerald commented that there has been a lot of information given and decisions need to be made using the REAL numbers.
- Chair Kohen promised that the Board will consider all the facts for this decision but they are not making a decision at this meeting.

June 6, 2017 Regular Meeting:

Presentations: Portrait of a Ninth Grader and Grade 6th-9th and/or Grade 7th-8th Configurations (see attached)

Public Comment on High School Decision

Chair Kohen opened up the public comment time on the high school decision:

Chair Kohen announced for the public that Board Member Nick Swayne is out of the state but is currently connected by phone and is following the conversation and watching online.

- Wayne Rothery, owns property in Harrisonburg but lives in McGaheysville - spoke on merging the Harrisonburg school system with the Rockingham County school system. Also commented that one large high school would greatly impact the sports program.

- Bucky Berry, 30 W. Washington Street - not against building another building but is against the high cost and would like to see if Board could get the cost down...referred to those who are on a fixed income. Would like to see a city-wide survey sent out to see if people would like a second high school.

- Cedric Ansah, 550 Lee Avenue (senior at HHS) - shared his experiences at HHS due to the overcrowdedness --couldn't get some classes, late to classes, crowded stairwells, long wait in cafeteria, class size has steadily increased and hard to find a time to speak to teachers.

- Hannah Bowman Hrasky, HHS teacher, 627 John Tyler Circle - classes have grown, sports are difficult, it's a challenge with increasing numbers to get to know and support all students. Second high school would create more meaningful communities.

- Tom Domonoske, 461 Lee Avenue - was an annex supporter but after studying all the information realized the annex option is not what we need. It's time to become a city with two high schools. There was a great public process. Also the summary of capital funding was interesting contrary to what the school board was told previously there is room in City budget.

- Shirley Vasey, 1121 Rebecca Ridge Court - Not an early supporter of a second high school but now 100% sure that we need a new high school - referred to some information that shows no other high school in the area over 2,000 students.

- Julie Thurnau, Maryland Avenue - moved to Harrisonburg because of the schools and in favor of a new high school. More than willing to pay additional taxes.

- Pam Snell, 1744 Heritage Estates - believes in education, hard to be a senior and fear growing old and running out of money. Why not build an annex and have less competition in one town. Higher taxes will be a burden for seniors - please consider them.

- Alleyn Harned, 77 N. Willow Street - consider all community citizens, lots of cost misconceptions going around in community and feels board should address. Urged Board not to delay.

- Lisa Warren, HHS assistant principal - highlighted how important it is to build relationships with students, but getting more difficult to do as the enrollment continues to increase.

- Lauren Huber, Augusta Circle - worries about this decision being delayed - thank you and appreciates all the hard work.

- Steve Reich, 150 Ott Street - whatever you decide, make a plan so that the new building opens with some capacity for growth and secondly, please calm the panic/fears about cost for those who are worried....there are tax relief programs for those individuals, etc.

- Cathy Weiss, Bluestone Street (member of space study committee) - very concerned about finances but do not want to be here in five years because other options out there didn't meet

the needs. Smarter economically to build the second high school now so we have a 30-year plan and not a 5-year plan.

- Darrell Wilson, Dogwood Drive and HHS athletic director - spoke regarding the comments on sports and is a strong supporter of a second high school. Have been a 4A high school for four years and have had some travel concerns - going to two smaller high schools would bring us back locally and feels its the right way to go.

- Obie Hill, member of space study committee - spoke in favor of a new high school - feels the majority of the community has spoken. A major concern is those who struggle and are on a fixed income but education is the main issue. There are tax programs available to help those on fixed incomes.

Seeing no further comments, Chair Kohen closed the public comment time.

School Board Discussion and Vote on High School Options

Mr. Swayne remained present by telephone for this Board discussion.

Ms. Fitzgerald began discussion by making the following motion:

"I move that the school board endorses the recommendation of the space committee which is to build a second high school, and instructs Dr. Kizner to send a letter to the City Manager informing him of our vote and our endorsement." Ms. Seigle seconded the motion.

Discussion was held and comments were shared by board members:

- Mr. Holsinger - sees lots of benefits and gets a sense that community wants two small high schools which has swayed his decision. The Davenport report says city can support a new high school and would like to work with council to work on cost for a second high school - supports a second high school.

- Ms. Penrod - supports a second high school - scary decision but financially sound.

- Ms. Seigle - has struggled back and forth on the decision of a high school or an addition--not an easy decision. Also commented that this is not a democratic or republican issue but a community issue, and need to focus on our community, on a solution and on healing. Doesn't want her taxes raised either but also does not want a Band-Aid solution. Has to support a second high school because it will benefit us in the long run. Definitely need to work on the cost.

- Mr. Swayne - doesn't want his taxes to go up either but an annex or addition will not solve the problem and in the end will be more expensive. Supports a second high school.

- Ms. Fitzgerald - has read, talked and listened and changed from supporting an annex to supporting a second high school.

- Mr. Kohen - first thought an annex would be expedient and board was told we couldn't afford a second high school - now we know we can.

- Ms. Seigle - to those who felt they couldn't come forward, please don't be afraid to come forward to speak whether or not someone else disagrees with you.

Chair Kohen asked for a roll call vote for the motion on the table:

Mr. Holsinger - Yes

Ms. Fitzgerald - Yes

Ms. Penrod - Yes

Ms. Seigle - Yes

Mr. Swayne- Yes

Mr. Kohen - Yes

Motion by Deb S Fitzgerald, second by Kaylene R Seigle.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Brent L Holsinger, Andy I Kohen, Lauren B Penrod, Deb S Fitzgerald, Kaylene R Seigle, Nick D Swayne

Mr. Holsinger then made the following motion:

"I move that the School Board requests that City Council endorse the School Board investigation of land options necessary to implement the space committee's recommendation of a second high school, and that the School Board reports those findings back to the Council/School Board liaison committee." Ms. Penrod seconded the motion.

Chair Kohen asked for a roll call vote:

Mr. Holsinger - Yes

Ms. Fitzgerald - Yes

Ms. Penrod - Yes

Ms. Seigle - Yes

Mr. Swayne- Yes

Mr. Kohen - Yes

Motion by Brent L Holsinger, second by Lauren B Penrod.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Brent L Holsinger, Andy I Kohen, Lauren B Penrod, Deb S Fitzgerald, Kaylene R Seigle, Nick D Swayne

June 20, 2017 Work Session:

Closed session discussion held on land.

August 22, 2017 Work Session:

Closed session held for discussion on land.

September 5, 2017 Regular Meeting:

Closed session held for discussion on land.

Board Discussion on high school land:

Chair Kohen made the following remarks:

"For the benefit of everyone attending the meeting this evening in person and via television, let me start the discussion by telling you that during our closed session before this meeting the Board discussed many aspects of securing land on which to build Harrisonburg's second high school. We continue to perform our due diligence on this matter as all of you expect us to do. In a minute, I will ask for a motion on this that will contain much legal language, and I think it is important to explain in advance briefly its meaning in simpler language. Basically, the motion will authorize the superintendent to go forward in collaboration with officials of the city of Harrisonburg with negotiations concerning parcels of land. We will take this action to protect the board's interests, the city's interests and those of the landowners involved."

After Chair Kohen's remarks, the following motion was made:

I move that, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the Board hereby authorizes and directs the Division Superintendent and the Division Superintendent's designees to proceed to take action, including but not limited to the negotiation and development and execution by the Division Superintendent, on behalf of the Board, of any contract(s), with appropriate provisions as may be advised by legal counsel and contingencies such as those for geological and environmental testing and funding or commitment of funding by City Council, for acquisition of property or property-related rights related to a possible new high school site consistent with the review of sites by the Board in closed session, with the Division Superintendent and the Division Superintendent's designees also being fully authorized and directed to communicate and make application to other governmental agencies and other persons such that the ongoing process by the Board for planning for a new high school may be advanced without unnecessary delay.

Motion by Deb S Fitzgerald, second by Nick D Swayne.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Brent L Holsinger, Andy I Kohen, Nick D Swayne, Lauren B Penrod, Deb S Fitzgerald, Kaylene R Seigle

September 19, 2017 Work Session:

Closed session discussion on land.

October 4, 2017 Regular Meeting:

Discussed updated high school construction schedule (see attached).

Closed session discussion on land and architectural-related services related to a possible new high school.

October 17, 2017 Regular Meeting:

Presentation on Weldon Cooper projected division and high school enrollment (see attached).

Closed session discussion on land.

The following motion was made:

I move to instruct the Superintendent to prepare a letter requesting that the City Council move with all possible dispatch to acquire the School Board's preferred property for the purpose of building a second high school to open in fall 2021, and to provide the funds necessary to conduct phase 2 geo-technical surveys and pre-design work on that land in preparation for formal architectural design and construction. The specific site will be identified once the land owner gives approval to do so.

It is requested that the decision to move forward with the process to acquire the land be made no later than November 30, 2017. We recognize that the land does not need to be purchased by this date.

Motion by Deb S Fitzgerald, second by Nick D Swayne.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries on a Vote of 5-Yes, 1-No

Yes: Brent L Holsinger, Andy I Kohen, Nick D Swayne, Lauren B Penrod, Deb S Fitzgerald

No: Kaylene R Seigle

October 24, 2017 Special Meeting:

Closed session discussion on architectural-related services with regard to a stand-alone high school.

November 21, 2017 Work Session:

Closed session discussion of Phase 2 of land.

December 4, 2017 Special Meeting:

Closed Session for interviews of offerors for architectural-related services.

December 5, 2017 Regular Meeting:

Board voted on architect for the new high school and announced the cost by the following motion:

Motion by Ms. Penrod, seconded by Mr. Swayne and unanimously passed:

I move that the School Board accept the proposal of the architectural firm Grimm and Parker to design a second high school for Harrisonburg at our preferred location, to open for the 2021-2022 academic year, at a preliminary price of \$76 million.

This price does not include a fully functional football stadium with concession stands, bleachers, lights and other amenities. This cost does include all building construction costs as well as soft costs such as architectural and engineering fees, onsite development work, furniture, fixtures and technology.