



# Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2019

E.J. McClendon Educational Center  
454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170

**Committee Attendees:** Kate Borninski, Nicholas Brandon, Jim Burt, Tim Gruszczynski, Rania Hammoud, Dana Jones, Celena Khatib, Monica Merritt, Patti McCain, Alexander Noroyan, Deborah Piesz, Beth Rayl, Clint Smiley, Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Bill Weinrauch, Rich Welch, Paul Wills, and Julie Woodhams

**Others Present:** Agnes Arbuckle and Brian Gesaman

**Committee Absent:** Rajani Aatre, Vernon Crump, Emily Hawthorne, Hal Heard, Denise Lilly, Matthew Smoot, Kevin Rhein

Kurt Tyszkiewicz called the Steering Committee Meeting to order at 5:01 pm in the P-CCS Board Room, welcomed the group, and thanked the committee for their continued participation.

Kurt reviewed the agenda, which includes an update on enrollment projections at the middle school level to correct discrepancies from the previous meeting, updates from McCarthy Smith on utilization of classroom space, and an update on the 10-year master plan which includes our visionary work so far. The need to create a recommendation list for presentation to the Board at the 10/22/19 meeting was noted.

Paul Wills reviewed and recapped the work that has been done with Plante Moran Cresa and P-CCS over the last several years relative to enrollment. It was noted all data reviewed in this meeting can be viewed and located on the steering committee shared drive. Boundary maps were reviewed and Paul reminded the committee of the three methods examined for five year enrollment projections:

- Method 1- Average of 6-year survival ratio
- Method 2 - Average of most recent 2-year survival ratio
- Method 3 - Blended average of Method 1 and Method 2

Individual school summaries and graphs were reviewed for each school at the elementary, middle school, and high school level. The committee noticed an error in the projected numbers for 2022-2023. This data will be corrected by Paul prior to this information going to the 10/22/19 Board packet. Feeder patterns were examined to note trends and growth patterns from elementary to middle schools. Overall, it appears our enrollment numbers are leveling off with an anticipated decrease in enrollment during the next five years. When our October fall count numbers are available, all summaries and graphs will be updated.

In March of 2020, the census birth rate actual figures will be available for the 2018 year. The overall trend is showing the birth rates in our area are going down. Wayne county projected 70,000 less births in the next decade according to Wayne RESA data.

Agnes Armbuckle from McCarthy Smith provided an update on the utilization of classroom space and briefly reviewed each building's site plans. The expenditure figures have not changed since the last meeting but the projected enrollment percentages at the bottom have gone down based on the revised data provided by Plante Moran. Ms. Armbuckle reminded the committee of the recommended 85% capacity goal at each building to create a safety net and allow for flexibility in our projected growth. It was clarified the percentages shown are the percent achieved for that building reaching the 85% goal. (Example: Bentley has reached 99% of the goal of being at 85% capacity). The importance of the Board and the community understanding this concept was stressed.

Bill Weinraugh from TMP Architecture reviewed the updates to the 10-year master plan for the committee. Creating equity between our school buildings continues to be the overall goal with the proposed updates.

At the elementary level, adding specials to all buildings (art, gym, music), moving these specials into their own space, and returning classrooms back to their intended purpose has been the main focus. Bill noted some building plans may call for displacing a playground or parking area but noted these spaces are not being reduced, only relocated. Individual elementary building numbers were reviewed and all data from the 10-year master plan and individual building charts are available to view on the shared drive. Future boundary committee meetings will need to address capacity needs at buildings projected to have more than 100% capacity. Some elementary buildings with identical floor plans show different types of additions. Member Borninski asked Bill to explain the reasoning behind the different plans. Bill cited varied land availability at each elementary building. Some have more surrounding land to expand, while other buildings require different addition plans to fit within the available space. Bill reminded the committee that the current plans are proposed suggestions. Once once the bond passes and the design team meets, specific building proposals can be edited.

At the middle school level the suggested facility updates focus on converting current media centers into learning commons and shared collaboration spaces. No major classroom additions are planned at the middle school level since the capacity needs are being met. Adding a track and field as well as a pool are in the current plans but the locations are not finalized. A summary of the proposed middle school updates include:

- Discovery - Learning common updates are proposed. Office space was updated this past summer.
- East - New secure office entry with direct access, storage updates, and learning commons.
- Liberty - Potential location for a 3rd pool - However the committee continues to lean toward the pool being placed at Plymouth High School and Member McCoin indicated previous Board dialog favors the high school location as well.
- Pioneer - Plans suggest moving the main office, which is currently not conducive to bringing people into the building from the parking lot and converting the current office area into new classroom space. Pioneer is the location that makes the most sense for a track and the additional parking it would require due to the availability of land at this site.
- West - Office upgrades with secure entry and learning commons. This would be another possible site for a track and field.

At the high school level, the following proposed updates were reviewed and discussed:

- Proposed auxiliary gyms additions at all three schools.
- Discussed the lack of space and the need for additional areas for clubs, activities, and sports practices.
- Proposed weight room expansions at Canton and Salem.
- Converting media centers into learning commons and creating collaborative areas at all three high schools for student orientated group activities.

- At Canton High School Phase Three - There was discussion of creating an activity center area to allow for group participation and activities such as robotics. This would open up additional space and will provide an aesthetically pleasing addition to this side of the building with easy access since it abuts the student parking lot.
- The potential of adding the new pool at Plymouth was discussed including its proposed location at the northwest corner of the building which was selected because it was the least expensive addition option. The committee discussed reasons previous bonds to add a third pool were not supported by the community. The committee believes previous bonds included a larger, more expensive pool that was viewed as a want and not a necessity, and previous bonds would have increased taxes to the community. Our current pool proposal calls for a smaller version with no increased cost to the community.
- Remodel of the auditorium at Salem and dressing room upgrades.
- Starkweather - Proposed addition of a gym, a small locker room, and learning commons areas.
- P-CEP Athletics - Addition of a third stadium (near Joy and Canton Center) with a multipurpose turf field to allow multiple sports to practice. This stadium would be similar in size to our current West stadium.
- Proposed synthetic turf installation on our existing grass ball fields.
- Upgrades to aesthetics and facility enhancements at our athletic facility entrances including landscaping, fencing to help with crowd control, a new concessions area, additional bathroom facilities. Addition of a ticket/bathroom/concession area that could be shared between sports.

Bill again stressed the suggested updates are proposed. Once the bond passes and the design team meets, current plans can be updated.

Monica Merritt asked Beth Rayl to share recent team conversations regarding facility updates and the overall desire to create new facilities looking through the lense of the future. Beth shared our updates should focus on these spaces being utilized as innovation hubs rather than activity center space. New space created with an educational purpose, but that can also be used to help provide space for evening activities that don't have their own dedicated space. Groups such as quiz bowl and science olympiads were mentioned. As we look to the future, we should consider how can our new spaces created for multipurpose educational use during the school day can also be utilized in the evening hours by activities and partnering with community education. Creating spaces that will have the ability to include future virtual reality and augmented reality needs was also discussed. Monica Merritt stressed the desire for our new spaces to become blended learning and innovation hub areas. Nick Brandon mentioned how these types of facilities would also cross over and be a benefit for the middle school programs such as robotics. Our middle school staff has expressed their excitement to hear about this type of facility addition.

The grand total of the 10-year master plan improvements with current proposed upgrades is \$289,585,749. In order for this bond to go out to the community with no millage increase, the target bond budget of \$275,000,000 will need to be achieved. Decisions on what areas will be scaled down will need to be examined. The importance of conveying to the community that the suggested improvements are "needs and not wants" was emphasized.

Debbie Piesz explained to the committee the bond procedures, the payback schedule for furniture, busses, technology, etc. and assisted the committee in understanding this process.

Discussion Points included:

- What areas can this committee prioritize to trim the budget to get under the amount needed for a zero cost bond renewal.
- Building assessments are important needs and can not be trimmed
- This committee must get the total for all updates below the \$275,000,000 bond budget so the millage has no increase to taxpayers.

- Is there room in the technology proposals to trim? Could there be a future enhancement millage for technology innovative needs? Are there other funding mechanisms that could be looked at to meet technology needs? Mark Saltzer will be consulted to help address these questions. The Trusdale building was discussed and the importance of keeping this space in our plans to meet our technology storage needs.
- Furniture - Assess building to building to determine actual furniture needs and examine this as an area to trim the total cost.
- As a steering committee, are we dedicated to the idea of a pool addition and a new track or are these areas we can examine to meet the bond budget target?
- The importance of being transparent with the community was discussed. Having data, maps, minutes, etc. accessible for the public was noted as important.

#### Next Steps:

- Decide the areas that can be trimmed down to meet the \$275,000,000 target bond budget.
- This steering committee will need to have a proposed draft for the board workshop on 10/22/19 so there can be a Board first read on 11/12/19, a second read on 11/26/19, and proposed bond language before 12/15/19.
- This steering committee to meet again to finalize details for the 11/12/19 Board meeting.
- Future discussion to include key points to present a bond to the community stressing the proposed updates have the overall goal of creating equity between all our buildings and will benefit all schools.
- The boundary committee needs to meet again regarding future boundary decisions.

Next meeting date - October 28, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm