

MEETING
OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S
SPLOST OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

November 15, 2012

Stephen Wilkins called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Present at the meeting were: Christine Avers, Paul Baisier, Cathy Blakeney, Wyvern Budram, Narwana D. el-Shabazz, B.R. "Billy Ray" Jones, Kimberly Mitchell, Kirk A. Nooks, Kerry Williams, A. E. "Gene" Wise, and Delilah Wynn-Brown. Charlie Rogers was absent.

Stephen Wilkins, Joshua Williams, John Jambro, Daniel Drake, and Jessica Leterle were present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. J. Williams and Mr. Wilkins discuss roles of committee and operations staff

DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE PROCESSES AND BYLAWS

Mr. Drake introduced the agenda, communication process, and website.

Mr. Drake then presented a detailed review of the draft bylaws and requested comments from Committee members emailed to Ms. Leterle by November 30, 2012. Mr. Drake committed to compile comments to the bylaws and send back out to the Committee by December 4, 2012.

DISCUSSION OF ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

Questions were asked regarding the level of oversight by members, including expenditures and level of responsibility. Remarks were made by Mr. Wilkins and Mr. J. Williams that this Committee is meant for the "macro level" oversight, for instance, and the "validation of fund usage." Committee members had questions regarding the vetting of contractors, transparency with community, and whether there will be a public website for asking questions.

The topic of subcommittees was also discussed.

SPLOST IV OVERVIEW

Mr. Jambro provided an overview of the SPLOST IV program, followed by Committee questions.

Ms. el-Shabazz suggested that they should put windows in the schools.

Ms. Wynn-Brown inquired about design guidelines and whether a vision state could inform the guideline. Mr. Jambro responded that the guidelines were developed with the 2020 vision and discussed the meetings that were held with curriculum and instruction staff to inform the development. Mr. J. Williams responded that for Dr Atkinson, boutique schools no longer were an option and that

ensuring the twenty-first technology is incorporated into the design. Design guidelines and educational specifications are living documents and will learn from the process. Mr. Wilkins also responded that Ms. Wynn-Brown has a great question about what schools of the future looks like. Mr. Wilkins asked that Committee share their experience and ideas into the design development process— it is a good place for start thinking about and inputting the process.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Wynn-Brown advised that the Committee should be mindful of Dr. Atkinson’s vision, and asks that DCSD Staff please share Dr. Atkinson’s vision of the school system. Ms. Wynn-Brown inquired what would a STEM at Elementary School and Middle School look like, would we want the schools to have a green aspect, like gardens, and can we get it done with this SPLOST [IV]? Mr. Wilkins suggested that we possibly could bring the Superintendent so the Committee could directly hear her perspective. It was commented that Tucker Middle School was well-thought out.

Mr. Baisier asked if we are throwing out the ideas of the past; with this being the fourth SPLOST and as we are finalizing concepts, are we disposing of previous concepts? Mr. J. Williams responded that we are learning from the lessons of the past and want to be in the best environment for our kids to compete. Mr. Baisier suggested that there are reasons to move beyond the past, such as a new superintendent.

Mr. Wise suggested that the District figure out a way to give high school seniors an iPad in lieu of textbooks.

Mr. Baisier inquired regarding facility size and the concept of bigger elementary schools, boutique schools, and standardization of the elementary schools to 900 seats.

Ms. Mitchell questioned what types of controls are in place for SPLOST IV.

There is a discussion concerning Southwest DeKalb High School and whether we have established a database of outstanding issues.

Mr. J. Williams explained that capital construction is under Facilities Management, which has a wider perspective of both capital and facility maintenance which include the use of facility assessments, maintenance review, and management of buildings. We should be mindful of the choice of materials and its impact on the long-term life-cycle-based maintenance of the building. Mr. Jambro defined a “start” as when we start planning (not starting construction) and “finish” is when the project is 100 percent closed out. Mr. Jambro explained that a projected revenue stream, expenditure, and obligations (contracted work) were being tracked and forecast to see how the program is progressing.

Mr. K. Williams asked if there are conceptual costs estimated for the projects in the program. Mr. Jambro indicated there are costs estimated for each project.

Ms. Blakeney stated that most Committee members will see many projects started but not see the final completion of quite a few. As such she asked that the Committee be provided the latest status on key milestones of projects. For example, the Committee would like to know the date certain a roof would be completed. Mr. Jambro responded that the Monthly Status Report would show that information.

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Ms. Avers asked to define “capital renewal.” Mr. J Williams explained that capital renewal is a term used to represent the replacement of the systems within the school facility, including heating-ventilation-air-conditioning (HVAC), roofing, mechanical/electrical/plumbing (MEP), etc.

Ms. el-Shabazz asked if there would be an Adams Stadium upgrade and what would happen to that property. Parking is an issue at all stadiums. She also asked what would happen with the congestion at Adams Stadium and Briarcliff HS.

Ms. el-Shabazz requested a tour of the Chamblee High School construction project.

In response to Mr. Baisier’s questions, Mr. J. Williams indicated that the SPLOST revenues are currently coming in 21 percent ahead of schedule.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00p.