

February 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes

MEETING
OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S
SPLOST OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Sam Moss Center, 1780 Montreal Rd Tucker GA, 30084

February 27, 2014

Mr. Baisier called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present at the meeting were: Kerry Williams, Delilah Wynn-Brown, Billy Jones, Wyvern Budram, Yvonne Fowlkes, Narwana El-Shabazz, Chris Avers, Cathy Blakeney, Paul Baisier Not present: Herman Lorenz, Charlie Rogers and Kimberly Mitchell

DCSD staff present: Stephen Wilkins, Belinda Quillet, Quinn Hudson, Greg Smith, Dan Drake, John Wright, Jessica Leterle, David Lamutt

Guest – SPLOST Oversight Committee Member for Henderson MS. Mary Allyson-Gevertz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

In Mr. Jambro's absence there will not be a DCSD response to the recommendation sheet, therefore agenda item #8 was removed. Staff will provide staff in writing to the recommendations. Agenda approved.

Minor edits were suggested to be made to the draft minutes for January. Motion to approve with comments and edits was made, motion approved.

FOLLOW-UP FROM PRIOR MEETING

A. Final documents for posting to the webpage

1. Recommendation Sheet (PDF and post to the webpage) email from Ms. Avers – Attachment to Annual Report
2. Recommendation Summary – Attachment to Annual Report
3. Annual Report
4. Summary
5. *Revised Bylaws – to be reviewed by the Superintendent
6. Contract Award Update – Attachment to Annual Report
7. Community Feedback Policy

Will be posted by Tuesday of next week.

*Approved revisions to the bylaws need to be sent to the Superintendent. They have been approved by the Committee and need to be sent on to be approved by the Superintendent.

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B. Follow up from Community Meetings

-There was an update on Snow Emergency worker recognition at Board Meeting, which was attended by Ms. El-Shabazz. Agenda was curtailed due to these recognitions and not all items were addressed at this meeting, no SPLOST issues.

-Update on Fernbank Meeting – Original Design Meetings with CGLS and DCSD. The main issue at this meeting was that the parents were concerned that they were going to have to stay longer at “Ferndale.” They do not like the commute and tardiness is an issue, also parent volunteering is down. The other issue was regarding the play area, tree line and retaining wall (safety issue). Ten days later another meeting was held with the Superintendent. A re-design was presented and will now go before the Board. The community is much happier with this new plan and excited to be in the new facility. This re-design will go to the Board on March 3rd (Change Order presented for re-design is a \$500k increase). Ms. Wynn-Brown expressed concern that if this dispensation is being made for Fernbank, will this be done for the other sites? Mr. Wright answered that because each site is unique, there will be individual assessments for each school. Ms. El-Shabazz questioned why this re-design wasn’t originally given to the Fernbank community in the beginning. Mr. Lamutt answered that communication has been improving as the program goes on. Mr. Wright stated that URS is now getting on the agenda of all the school councils and as projects become active we get on their agendas. -----

-Meeting minutes pertaining to the SPLOST projects will also be added to the Committee webpage. Ms. Wynn-Brown recommends that as the additional cost is being presented, CIP needs to be emphasizing that this particular case is an anomaly and this is not how the program will be operating (increasing budgets) moving forward. The design process will now get out ahead of this issue. Her recommendation is for how this should be presented to the Board, as a way to not set a precedent. The other members vote to approve this as a recommendation.

-Ms. El-Shabazz raised the issue of turning off the water at the demolition sites (ex. Hooper Alexander). Water bills should be taken out of DCSD’s name. When a facility closes, all utilities should be closed out.

C. Summary of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mr. Wright will go over some events in MSR, members will be emailed with upcoming March events.

D. Finalizing Rotation of Board Meeting Attendance

Mr. Jones has created a list and meeting coverage have been scheduled through Nov 2014 for Committee.

E. Survey List

Follow up with Ms. Mitchell by Mr. Baisier.

F. Finalize Community Feedback Policy

Motion to approve the policy, minor edits suggested by Mr. Fowlkes. With edits, members approved the policy. It will be posted to the webpage.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

By John Wright, David Lamutt, Greg Smith and Belinda Quillet.

-Mr. Smith introduced the upcoming ADA projects, all designs have been completed and construction is slated to soon begin.

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-Questions arose regarding acceleration, Mr. Lamutt answered that this has not yet been approved by the Board. Some projects have been bundled and accelerated in the design portion to take advantage of the timing. There is no guarantee that the program managers will be compensated for this acceleration. Ms. Blakeney asked if there is any plan to accelerate the stadium projects. Mr. Lamutt answered that at this point there has been no plan to accelerate these projects, but this can be discussed and also coordinated with the Facilities Department. Mr. Wilkins admits the major issues facing the District with paving (stadium parking lots are at issue) due to budgeting, which is more of a Maintenance issue than SPLOST.

-Efforts are being made to better reach out to the communities (Hooper Alexander, Tilson, Old Chamblee, CHS, Rockbridge, Pleasantdale). These meeting minutes will be posted to the webpage and emailed to the Committee.

-Recommendation from Mr. Baisier – Committee should try and schedule coverage for all community meetings regarding SPLOST.

-Recommendation from Mr. Budram – posting meeting information on site for upcoming SPLOST meetings.

-Update from Mr. Drake on Gresham Park – proposal to change the site to Clifton ES on the Agenda for Board meeting on March 3rd. This will push the schedule back one year. There have been several meetings in the community regarding these changes, Clifton and Meadowview parents are in support of this.

CONTRACT AWARD UPDATE

Three new contracts (Hambrick, Stone Mtn and Stone Mill), which are older projects, ready to give a NTP for the contractor in tandem with Budget Reallocations.

PRESENTATION BY DCSD COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

By Mr. Quinn Hudson

Mr. Hudson gave the members a presentation of communications process and the recent lessons learned in communicating with the community:

-Active listening

-Accept the problem

-Most effective form of communication is the word of mouth. Presentation made at Fernbank to the parents and then immediately to the teachers.

-Demonstrate empathy.

-Language is important (use of the word “prototype” now using “initial design” etc).

STAFF RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

These will be provided in writing to the Committee.

COLLECTION OF MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

Mr. Jones and Mr. Budram expressed interest in having project managers come in and give more updates.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP MATTERS

-Posting of new documents that have been approved and follow up with Bylaws to be seen by the Superintendent.

-Mr. Thurmond will be attending the March meeting. Ms. Blakeney has a question regarding the length of the Member terms, which can be asked at the March meeting.

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- Ensure that the Fernbank ES budget increase is presented as an anomaly.
- Utilities should be closed out when a facility is demolished.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 7:55.