

**August 31, 2016 Board Work Session Minutes
Panorama Village Building - Meeting Room A
240 Villa Crest Drive
State College, PA 16801**

IV-E

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Concepcion called the State College Area School District Board of School Directors work session to order at 7:08 p.m. She welcomed all in attendance and those viewing from home. With the agenda before them, she asked board members if there were any changes; they had no changes.

Ms. Concepcion noted they would allow administration to go through the presentation and questions would be at the end. Forms were provided for board members to write down their questions under the different topics that would be covered. After the presentation there would be a short break. She noted public comment is taken at the end of the meeting instead of the beginning for work sessions.

Dr. O'Donnell added they were pressed to get the information tonight and at September 12 meeting, more in depth conversation could occur. The information was not shared as early as they hoped but moving forward this evening would help with the process. A lot of information would be shared tonight.

A copy of all materials distributed to board members for discussion and/or action is included with the official minutes, unless otherwise indicated.

Board members present: Amy Bader, Gretchen Brandt, Amber Concepcion, Dan Duffy, Penni Fishbaine, Scott Fozard, David Hutchinson, Jim Leous, Laurel Zydney

Board members absent:

Board Secretary: Mary Jenn Dorman

Student Representative:

Solicitor:

Superintendent: Robert O'Donnell

District Personnel: Vernon Bock, Randy Brown, Ed Poprik, Jason Perrin, Chris Rosenblum

Guests: Gus Colangelo, Linda Colangelo, Benoit Dayrat, Ed LeClear, David Miller, Tracey Olexa, Terrill Salter, Rebecca Wilson-Lundin

II. DWFMP - UPDATE / INFORMATION for ELEMENTARY PROJECTS

Memorandum

Mr. Brown noted he provided an updated memorandum to board members and it would be posted to the website also. The most recent is not in the packet but on top. He reviewed the Master Plan Decision Points: District Facility Capacity, Project Capacity Decision (School Size and Project Scope), and Project Design. He then reviewed the project goals, factors for capacity decision, the current elementary schools, attendance areas with map of where current students live, historical enrollment from 2000-01 to present and enrollment with charter students (specifically elementary students) for the same time period.

Demographic Report - Enrollment Projections

Mr. Brown reported on what has been reviewed: A 1% growth each year for ten years, a conservative model and a moderate model, projections through 2025-26 with numbers for each

model, the District capacity with eight classroom units/grade level or nine classroom units/grade level that is a potential decision point. The capacity comfort is between 80 to 90% and he showed the enrollment to capacity with each number of classroom units. Mr. Brown reviewed the areas of new or expanding development for potential student generation, and the current class size guidelines and capacity definition. The average number/class is 23 students.

Scenario Discussion

Mr. Brown spoke on multiple configurations of classes/grade for Corl Street, Radio Park and Houserville/Lemont. He noted the Board will need to take affirmative action on this. He reviewed Scenario 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 4 and 5 and noted Scenarios 4 and 5 were for information only. He looked at project costs, operating costs and there is no reduction of teachers in any scenario. Scenarios 4 and 5 have a cost savings but there is a cost up front for expansions.

Mr. Brown reviewed 2016/17 and 2015/16 elementary/grade level and totals with charters. He showed cohort enrollments and Dr. O'Donnell added that out of seven cohorts, six are closer to our enrollment with one District being two thirds of our size and the others are only 10 to 15 square miles.

Decisions

Mr. Brown noted decisions the Board would need to make:

- Eight (8) Classroom Units or Nine (9) Classroom Units for Capacity
- Building Decisions - Houserville/Lemont into one, Radio Park, and/or Corl Street, Easterly Parkway is in One Scenario
- Project Designs - Design so an additional wing could happen down the road

The next Board meeting is September 12 and the next Community Forum is September 19.

Ms. Concepcion requested board members ask clarifying questions, especially for the Board decision points. Questions were asked and discussions had in the following categories:

- **Demographic Information** - covering current enrollment and projected enrollment, new developments, charter students, home schooled students, private school student numbers, State College growth, Stewman's report, general perception of capacity, and certain jumps or declines in a specific area.
- **Total District Capacity** - this should be 80 to 90%, range of students in a class, 23/class being maxed out capacity, many classes smaller than 23 students, 8 classrooms/grade or 9 classrooms/grade, 8.5 might give flexibility, all together or phase, and the history of the District regarding this.

Board members took a break from 8:44 to 9:03 p.m.

- **Financial Implications** - operating costs, useful life of buildings, Scenario 1 to Scenario 3 not comparing apples to apples, costs dependent on enrollment, no added teachers at this time, what would and would not be eligible for PlanCon reimbursement, and the percentage increase and how you calculate gross operating costs.

- **Further Discussion** - Size of cohort schools, neighboring schools, the existing utilization by school using 8 vs. 9 units/grade, looking at capacity with how many seats and how many rooms not used of core classrooms, 80 to 90% and what is the cushion, and capacity number - 23 seats/classroom with 2/3/4/5/classrooms/grade with 80 to 90% of seats filled.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the audience addressed the Board:

-- Benoit Dayrat thanked all for their time and dedication for this presentation that was very thorough.

He spoke on the proximity of school to family and it is not in Scenarios 4 and 5. Some scenarios impact dramatically the lifestyle families have chosen, especially those that walk or bike to school. He asked them to consider the impact on the lifestyle families have chosen.

-- Tracey Olexa spoke on the information on slides 13 and 15 with slide 13 reflecting units on the books with the planning commission and slide 15 with peak at 2020-23 and then subsequent decline 2025-26 due to the lack of data on plan development. Mr. Brown noted in part, the decline is part of the historical trends.

-- Terrill Salter spoke on the percentage of students going to charter schools and the concern for the number attending charters. How much concern if considering closing neighborhood schools and questioned if there is any data on how parents impact neighborhood schools more than having to travel to schools.

-- Rebecca Wilson-Lundin spoke on the consideration to make decisions based on trends and the Board could influence those trends. There is talk about growth in the area and there are trends that you can respond to and trends you can create.

IV. FUTURE AGENDA PLANNING

Ms. Concepcion noted items on the September 12 meeting agenda and the Community Forum coming up on September 19, 7:00 p.m. at Mount Nittany Middle School.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fozard moved and Ms. Fishbaine seconded to adjourn the work session. All board members present voted aye with a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Concepcion adjourned the State College Area School District Board of School Directors work session at 9:42 p.m. to an executive session.

Submitted by,

Mary Jenn Dorman
Board Secretary