



STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MEDIA RELEASE

April 22, 2016

CONTACT:

Chris Rosenblum

SCASD Director of Communications

jcr19@scasd.org

(814) 272-8699

SCASD Board of School Directors to Vote On Design Team for Accelerated District-wide Facility Master Plan

On Monday, April 25, the State College Area School District Board of School Directors is expected to vote on a motion to designate Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associate and Massaro Construction Management Services as the design team for the District-wide Facilities Master Plan and proposed elementary school renovation projects.

In other action items, the Board will vote on approving [the submission of PlanCon Part I for the State High Project](#), [the purchase and installation of video recording equipment on district transportation](#) and [job descriptions for two proposed positions, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Supervisor of Elementary Education](#).

The Board also will receive [the Proposed Final Budget for 2016-2017](#) and hear an update about the proposed revised 2016-2017 school year calendar

Design team motion

On April 18, the district administration presented an accelerated District-wide Facilities Master Plan to take advantage of a state grant to reduce costs for one or two elementary school projects.

The accelerated DWFMP timeline is required to meet the deadline for applying for a state Department of Community and Economic Development grant that could reimburse the district for 10 percent or up to \$2 million per school construction project.

As proposed, the timeline would start in May with the recommended design team of Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates and Massaro Construction Management Services working with district officials through September. The adoption of a master plan is expected in October after community and stakeholder review.

The administration is recommending the appointment of CRA and MCMS, the State High Project design team, based on their history of cost-effective project completions and quality designs, their strong experience in Pennsylvania and their relationship with the district during the State High Project.

Proposal documents [for CRA](#) and [for MCMS](#) were posted on the district website after the April 18 meeting. The CRA proposal includes updating the demographic study, elementary boundaries, and measuring facility student capacity.

The district administration has identified Radio Park and Houserville elementary schools for renovation for the following reasons:

- RPE and HE are among the four remaining elementary projects identified in the 2009 DWFMP and 2013-14 DWFMP update to be completed.
- The two schools are expected to be the most expensive of the remaining elementary projects, so the district would receive the largest possible reimbursement from the DCED grant.

To start planning the DWFMP process, the administration is requesting a Board Communications Committee meeting soon. Throughout the process, the Board Facilities Committee and the Citizens Advisory Council for Facilities will be consulted as needed.

Proposed Final 2016-2017 Budget

Business Administrator Randy Brown will present the Proposed Final Budget for 2016-2017 to the Board.

Highlights include:

- \$144,601,893 in revenue
- \$146,963,194 in expenses
- \$2,361,301 expenses in excess of revenue
- \$2,441,858 use of assigned fund balance
- \$80,557 change in unassigned fund balance
- 4.32 percent real estate tax increase (2.4 percent Act I Index, 1.92 percent referendum debt exceptions)
- \$4,929,982 additional real estate tax revenue from 2015-2016 budget from tax rate increase and growth in assessed value
- \$9,410,873 additional expenses from 2015-2016 budget (primary increases in descending order of categories: PSERS retirement, referendum debt service, salaries, purchased property services, athletics/food service/contingencies)
- Proposed Final Budget for Salaries and Benefits includes:
 - Three core elementary teachers
 - One learning enrichment/gifted support teacher
 - Two Delta middle school teachers
 - One part-time Chinese teacher
- The Proposed Final Budget will be submitted to the Board for approval May 9.

Proposed revised 2016-2017 school year calendar

The district administration is proposing [a revised 2016-2017 school year calendar](#) that would extend the traditional spring break in March to a whole week instead of three days as in the past years.

The recommended change is in response to declining attendance in the Thursday and Friday after the “spring break-let.” Student attendance during the days dropped to 82 percent, compared to the typical K-12 student attendance of 92-95 percent.

Under the proposed calendar, students would have days off March 6-10.

School would start Aug. 29 and finish June 9.

Other business

- The Board will receive [an update on the State High Project construction progress](#), focused on the ongoing foundation work for the South Building.
- The Board will receive [a review of the State High Project change orders to date](#).
- The Board will review charter renewal requests for [Centre Learning Community](#) Charter School and [Nittany Valley](#) Charter School.