Board of Education – Finance Committee Meeting  
Keil Administration Building || First Floor Board Room  
August 8, 2022 || 4:00PM

**Board Members Present:** Dan Oakes (President); Andrew Taylor (Vice President); Regan Lewis; Al Scheider; and Jason Dion

**Board Members Absent:** Alana Banks and Kevin Collins-Brown

**Finance Committee Members Present:** Superintendent Dr. Rochelle Clark and Dr. Mike Curry (Chief Operational Officer)

Dr. Curry called the Board of Education/Finance Committee meeting to order at 4:00PM and asked for a motion and second. Vice President Taylor motioned, and President Oakes seconded the motion.

Dr. Curry called for Roll Call:  
Present: Taylor, Lewis, Scheider, Oakes, and Dion  
Absent: Banks and Dr. Collins-Brown

**Public Participation**  
Jacob Jenkins – Mrs. Sommer called Mr. Jenkins’ name at 4:01PM and he was not present

Jerome Peltz  
• Spoke at a regular board meeting previously  
• Feels confidence of this Board is at a critical point  
• Understands Board has many things on the table at this time  
• Feels it is imperative to try and make a priority to re-establish trust between the Board and community

Alan Duesterhaus  
• President for Millikin Heights Neighborhood – includes Lincoln Park  
• Neighbors have expressed gratitude that a school will not be built in Lincoln Park  
• Hopes the Board truly looks at Woodrow Wilson Jr High School as opportunity to gain positive PR to use by renovating it rather than demolishing it

Bret Robertson  
• Encourages Board to find new ways to engage with the public  
• Form some type of public committee that will allow more in-depth discussion to the committee from the public

**Approval of Minutes**  
Dr. Curry asked for a motion to approve minutes from the May 19th and June 7th finance committee meetings. President Oakes motioned and Vice President Taylor seconded the motion.

Dr. Curry called for Roll Call:  
Aye: Taylor, Lewis, Scheider, Oakes, and Dion  
Absent: Banks and Dr. Collins-Brown
The minutes from the May 19, 2022 and June 7, 2022 finance committee meetings were approved.

**Update – Corporate Property Personal Replacement Tax**
- DPS received more than double what was budgeted this previous year
- Concept would be to budget for 70% of what is received this year
- Next year would also be a higher number of receipts than the previous years before
- Budgeted $5.8 million and ended up with $11 million

**Purchasing Co-Op (Maria Robertson & Kent Metzger)**
- Maria Robertson – Community Engagement Specialist
  - Exploration of District to join a purchasing co-op for translation services
  - Student Code of Conduct and Health Guidelines documents are currently translated to Spanish and Arabic
  - In the past, DPS has done this on demand
  - Quote – Rate is based on per words and hours it takes to translate
    - For two documents (Student Code of Conduct and Health Guidelines documents) with a 10% discount would $17,500
- Kent Metzger – Director of Buildings and Grounds
  - Document provided to committee (Cooperatives and Consortiums Approved for use from the Chief Procurement Office)
  - Vendors enroll in purchasing programs and then they are listed as vendors
    - Vet prices to make sure they are getting competitive numbers
  - Attorney Brian Braun
    - There is an allowance for certain cooperatives bidding, but it requires ISBE approve – not the state of Illinois
    - District cannot access what the City of Decatur accesses
      - City has different statute that applies to them
    - As long as purchase is under $25,000 and doesn’t meet the bidding threshold, or under $50,000 if it is a construction project of a certain type, District is fine; otherwise, will have to go through Dr. Curry to make sure it is subject to competitive bidding

**Discussion – Woodrow Wilson Site – Demolition / Feasibility**
- Site that was originally considered for Dennis
- Necessary space (green space, parking for events)
  - Current property was not enough
- To get property to be right size, District would need to purchase adjacent homes
- Background – Interviewed 3 architectural firms
  - All three firms said that by today’s standards District should look at 15 – 20 acres to build a K-8 facility (ideal – not etched in stone)
- Woodrow Wilson – 2.14 acres
- Dennis Mosiac and Kaleidoscope – 2.4 acres
  - Properties are small/congested for today’s educational process
- Woodrow Wilson Site Feasibility Discussion
Acquire everything in triangular wedge – would have to acquire 26 properties which would be 7.3 acres – very bottom of where we want to be for a modern K-8 facility

Problem – Could we acquire properties and what would cost be associated
  - DPS engaged real estate agent, started doing title searches, title work was a mess and there were liens everywhere

Proximity to railroad track – need to be able to get children safely from west side of track to east side of track – not a pathway for safe travel under the railroad tracks

Logistical issues – would have to gut the building and recreate

Timeline to have expenditure made is September 2024

Site was discounted due to these parameters

Far less expensive to go with new structure over Woodrow Wilson

Out of options with west end – no land option for Dennis for this time frame

Committee member Taylor – fine with moving forward with new Dennis under the normal process – community meeting, hold referendums, and try to get done through the normal process

Take into consideration that there are certain limits to what District can bond to raise funds for project
  - Just over $30 million left

Demolition of current Dennis has to be part of the conversation

Where are we at with Durfee – still working with the City of Decatur

Discussion – Updates to MacArthur High School

- Football and concession stand schedule update:
  - Originally planned to receive bids August 9, 2022
  - Contractors too busy to bid for August 9, 2022
  - Extended bidding period to August 30, 2022 and able to pick up some bidders
  - None could commit to August 9, 2022
  - Received confirmation from two bidders and potentially seven others
  - Bid would be awarded at first Board meeting in September

Updates on American Rescue Plan / ESSER III

- Only other thing had left on renovation list was American Dreamer
  - Supposed to have renovations that included adding on gym
  - $2.4 – $2.5 million for initial project – once we started looking at materials the cost jumped to almost $10 million
  - Not a project that District could take with that amount of money at that time
  - What do we now do with the needs of American Dreamer since not building a new Dennis?

- Dreamer – need to plan for more space for middle school
- Vice President Taylor – Build brand new school at Oak Grove
- Dr. Clark asked for clarification
  - Looking towards families, administration, and staff to determine whether or not a new building is viable over a renovation

- Due to being on a short timeline, need to have another conversation in the very near future
- Talk to Administrator at Dreamer – Discuss whether the best thing to do is relocate to a new building or can the current building be salvaged?
- Recommended to have more discussion at the August 23, 2022 Board meeting
• **Discussion of grant**
  o Grant was approved for the construction of a new Dennis school to alleviate over crowding to provide larger spaces for student separation (lunch, physical education, etc.)
  o Approximately $38 million was ear-marked for the construction of a new Dennis Lab School
  o Would have to change parameters of grant and work with ISBE for approval
  o Need to have a plan in place and submit to ISBE by the end of September
  o Within the next 2 weeks, Administration needs to have a good idea of what needs to be submitted to ISBE
  o Programming with Architects could take 2-4 weeks

• **If we renovate, what are allowable expenditures from the ESSER grant?**
  o Most of funds were allocated towards new building or instructional needs
  o Main focus – response and intervention from COVID-19 (loss of learning, anything that mitigates the impact of COVID)

• **Board Member Scheider recommended having an emergency finance committee meeting before the August 23, 2022 Board meeting**
  o Dr. Curry stated this could be discussed and reframe it as a Facilities Meeting

Dr. Curry asked for a motion to adjourn. President Oakes motioned, seconded by Vice-President Taylor. The meeting adjourned at 5:40PM.