

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY MAY 27, 2020  
REVISED**

The Operations Committee met on Wednesday May 27, 2020 via Webex online meeting platform

Present: Committee Chair Eric Carlson, John Sklenka, and Chris Wilson

Also Present: Jill Browne, Angela Cahill (QA&M), Timothy Callahan, Dr. Catherine Carbone, Cathy Cassin, Chris Cassin, Mike Dietter, Jennifer Dube, Carly Fortin, Sam Galloway, Kristen Giantonio, Rusty Malik (QA&M), Thomas O'Brien, and Allison Wadowski

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Commissioner Wilson

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING**

*On a motion by Chair Carlson and seconded by Commissioner Wilson, it was unanimously voted to approve the April 29, 2020 meeting minutes.*

**3. UPDATE ON GREENE-HILLS LITIGATION**

**Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent of Schools Presented:**

- There is one more deposition that they are waiting on
- Once all depositions are received, they will move to a jury trial (delayed due to COVID)
- Will continue to be updated once a jury can be selected

**4. UPDATE ON TURF FIELDS**

**Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent of Schools Presented:**

- The turf fields installed and the turf has pulled away from the drain causing field failure
- Currently working toward litigation
- Working with Corporation Counsel to in entering into a mediation if all parties agree

**5. UPDATE ON NEMS BUILDING PROJECTS**

**Timothy Callahan, Schools Project Manager Presented:**

- NEMS Ceiling Tiles: Contractor – Conn Acoustics
  - Construction meeting scheduled for May 29, 2020 to review the progress
  - Project is approximately 30% complete with almost all demo complete and grid work installed
  - The project is currently \$17,000 under budget
  - The project should be complete by the end of July
- NEMS Gym Floor: Contractor – Kenvo Floors
  - This project is moving ahead – The successful bidder is Kenvo Floors
  - Met with Kenvo Floors on May 26, 2020 to discuss hazmat abatement and schedule

- Project should be complete by the middle of July
- This project includes power operated bleachers that will seat the entire student body

## **6. UPDATE TO FEASIBILITY PLAN**

The rationale for the feasibility study is

- Building needs call for a comprehensive facilities plan that ensures students meet clear and challenging expectations through personalized learning experiences in well-appointed schools
- Utilization of space in grades Pre-K – 8 must better support student learning that is informed by current and projected enrollment
- Predicted enrollment requires BPS to adjust the cost structures of its systems

Reimagining BPS 2023 Goals as Guiding Questions:

- Which model will ensure equity for 100% of our BPS scholars to attend well-appointed and safe schools?
- Which model will best sustain future enrollment predictions and improve operational efficiency?
- Which model has the greatest potential to improve teacher collaboration across grade levels, subject areas and disciplines to maximize learning outcomes?
- Which model best ensures all schools utilize and maximize instructional spaces and staffing considerations?
- Which model best serves all students with a consistent philosophy of high quality education, addresses students' plane of development, and reflects the demographics of the entire district?

The questions from the last meeting were addressed:

1. What determines building condition?
  - Information was sent to the committee members.
2. Can we get an itemized list of renovations that have been done (and are to be done) at each building?
  - Information was sent to the committee members
3. If Memorial Boulevard ever gets built, when are we planning on redistricting? Will it happen before or when/if it comes online?
4. I was under the impression that Memorial Boulevard would alleviate our space issue – Is that not the case?
5. When will this feasibility study be done?
6. Many of these plans call for “add classrooms” or “add this or that”, what is the plan for these additions?
7. Would like any information regarding upgrade costs and general information (i.e. Tech/AC/ classrooms).

- Answer to questions 4 – 7: To close a school, there needs to be enough classroom spaces in the schools to accommodate the students and educational needs. No matter what option is chosen, it will require adding and/or renovating space.
8. What is the definition of parity?
    - Equitable access to learning for 100% of the students. Commonalities in class size, number of sections per grade, educator and subject area expertise gained by educator collaboration, demographic composition, and condition of facilities – well maintained and conducive to learning
  9. How are we getting commissioner and community feedback before any of these options are taken off the table?
    - All of these options will require commissioner and community feedback and will not be done in isolation.
  10. What are our continued costs due to COVID?
    - All of the models around COVID, if we are in the same exact situation in September that we are in now, we will need to make adjustments and accommodations.
  11. An option 5, which includes not opening Memorial Boulevard.
    - This is not a Board of Education committee but a city committee. If there is any stoppage of this project would result in the loss of millions of dollars for the Board of Education and there would be litigation

**Rusty Malik, QA & M Presented:**

- The feasibility study was reviewed
- There are four options that were reviewed
  - Option 1 - PreK Specialization, K-4, 5-8, 9-12
  - Option 2 - PreK Specialization, K-5, 6-8, 9-12
  - Option 3 - PreK Specialization, Mixed K-8, 9-12
  - Option 4 – Mixed PreK-8, 9-12

A copy of the feasibility study is attached for review.

- Reviewed the phasing options
- All options would use Northeast Middle School as swing space
- Finding swing space to lease could be difficult and to rent portables could be very expensive
- Looking to the operations committee is to identify the next steps; to review the feasibility study and find what options and philosophy answer to the goals of the BPS
- Would like the operations committee to make a referral to the board or wait to have a completed study before referring options to the full board
- John Sklenka inquired about the money being spent on Northeast (ceiling tiles and gym floor) will that be destroyed
  - Renovating NEMS because of system failures – looking to utilize as much of the renovation possible

- Angela Cahill stated the gymnasium could be saved although it would not provide parity because of the size of it in comparison to the other middle school gyms but could be used as an auxiliary gym. The importance of the NEMS site is to be used as a swing space. The ceiling tiles were falling down creating a safety issue. They needed to be replaced. The expense of these repairs are a fraction of what needs to be done in the building. The mechanicals are failing, ADA accessibility is not there; all the finishes, windows and entrances need to be repaired/replaced.
- Commissioner Sklenka wants to see all of the information and will not forward any recommendation to the board until all cost ramifications have been identified.
- Commissioner Wilson agrees with Commissioner Sklenka that all the information should be collected before any recommendation is made to the board. Once they can review all the information and cost implications, they hope to scale it down to two options to forward to the board.
- Commissioner Sklenka asked if transportation costs are included in the study while using Northeast Middle School as swing space.
  - Dr. Carbone stated they are including that expense.
- Commissioner Dube requested that all the files be emailed to the board
- Commissioner Giantonio had a question regarding bringing on the Arts Magnet School. Has anyone asked the state if there was any latitude on opening the school that meets the philosophy that is chosen and give the maximum amount of flexibility and choices with the building?
  - Dr. Carbone stated there is not an update because the funding we are receiving was contingent the building plan as an intradistrict arts magnet school.
  - Tim Callahan stated OSCGR requires the town to open the school to meet the education specifications.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No Public Comment

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the committee. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Landon

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the BOE website under Operations Committee Meeting Minutes.