

**Auburn School District
School Improvement Committee
October 11, 2017**

Committee Members Present: Jason Tyburski, Vice Chair; Alan Villeneuve, Mike DiPietro, Tom Gonyea, Jim Headd, Diane Proulx, Jennifer Anderson, Melissa Prunier, Lori Collins and Jess Edwards.

Also Present: Doug Proctor and Bill Hickey, The Turner Group; Keith McBey, Bonnette, Page & Stone; Keith Leclair, Joanne Linxweiler, Susan Goodhue, Russell Sullivan, Michael Rolfe and William Herman

Mr. Tyburski convened the meeting at 6:03 PM.

Community Survey:

Jennifer Anderson reported Heather Lockwood was not able to attend tonight's meeting, but provided her with a report on the status of the community survey she developed. At this point, there had been a total of 268 responses, an increase from the 221 responses reported on September 27th. Of the respondents, 75% were women and 25% were males, with the majority of the responders being females between the ages of 35 and 45. Mrs. Anderson indicated the top three relevant issues to a project proposal identified by the survey was:

- Value for Price
- Cost of Project
- Tax Impact

In terms of the project itself and components of the potential project, the survey results indicated there was general support for all components of a potential project and that no one thing showed as more important than another. She also indicated the survey suggests the length of the bond was not a factor of consideration to the majority of survey responders, and that the need to address improvements to the school property not included in a renovation project was a concern or interest of the responders.

A full copy of the survey results will be made available to the committee members.

Review of New Options:

On behalf of the School Board, Mr. Villeneuve re-introduced Doug Proctor and Bill Hickey of The Turner Group and introduced Keith McBey of Bonnette, Page & Stone, who have worked at refining a conceptual plan and conceptual cost estimates for the committee's consideration. Mr. Proctor went through a review of the various potential

project sections covered in the past two SIC meetings. He stressed the team has developed estimated costs based on a conceptual scope of work. Those cost estimates are likely within three-to-five percent of where they will likely end up, based on the quantifying of details in the conceptual planning process. The more details are nailed down and plans are finalized, the more precise the cost estimates will also become. He suggested the process starts with a conceptual design and a resulting conceptual cost estimate, which is where the process is now. A conceptual design will lead to a schematic design, which will lead to revised cost estimate which could go up or down. A schematic design will ultimately lead to a final design and a final cost estimate.

Mr. McBey provided the committee with an Initial Cost Study (ICS) for the current conceptual design of the potential Auburn school project. He noted the main portion of the project includes the removal of nine portable classrooms and the building of a 13-room two-story addition in its place; a lobby and space addition the would connect the 13-room addition to the cafeteria area; and renovations in the existing AVS to the current kindergarten, nurse & administration, OT/PT, classrooms, science labs and floor infills. The ICS for this core work is approximately \$12.8 million.

The potential of an addition & renovation to the cafeteria and a renovation of the kitchen area was estimated at approximately \$1.7 million.

The ICS for the re-roofing of the existing AVS facility was approximately \$875,000.

And the ICS for adding an additional four classrooms to the main 13 room addition and then removing four existing classrooms at the front portion of the AVS to be able to open up the parking area was estimated at approximately \$1.2 million.

Mr. Villeneuve indicated the School Board is looking at the re-roofing of the AVS, and at this point believes it would be more appropriate to consider this a maintenance item and be budgeted over time through the annual operating budget as opposed to being part of a project that is bonded.

Jess Edwards offered the suggestion that with the potential gymnasium being off the table for the proposal to be advanced to the voters in March, but with there still being interest in portions of the community for this feature, perhaps consideration could be given to the establishment of a fund raising effort to allow those in the community interested in this feature to raise funds under various potential means. He felt the committee and School Board were ultimately going to establish some hard limits for a potential project moving forward to the voters, but this type of approach would allow the community to work for more if there was interest to do so. There was general support for this concept, although it was felt it may be beyond the scope of the Committee. There was some discussion about potential corporate fundraising or support and other fundraising efforts that could be considered.

The Committee asked a number of questions of Mr. Proctor, Hickey and McBey concerning the conceptual plans and the ICS.

Mr. Edwards asked if the two additional rooms for kindergarten was intended to accommodate full day kindergarten. Mr. Villeneuve indicated that it was. He said the School Board believes it will not be too long before full-day kindergarten is a mandated offering and Auburn would be short-sighted if they did not plan for that as part of the building project.

Mrs. Anderson asked what the timing is for developing a final project number and for the warrant article for a proposed project. Mr. Villeneuve indicated the Committee will need to make a recommendation on what the project should include by the end of October. That will enable the School Board to work through their budget and warrant process in November in order to meet the general December deadline the Superintendent has outlined.

Mr. Rolfe indicated he felt there would be public concern with tearing down a functioning portion of the current school building and then recreating the space to the area of the proposed new addition. Mr. Villeneuve indicated the area in question was part of the 1940s addition to the school, and while the classrooms are of an adequate size, they are in need of renovations. He also stressed the real potential benefit to making that type of change is the ability to address parking and potentially moving some buses and parent drop-off and pick-up off the road and onto the school property. Without opening up the area by removing the four existing classrooms, there is no ability to address parking.

Mr. Gonyea and Mr. DiPietro summed up their beliefs that the Committee is looking at a project ranging between approximately \$13 million and \$16 million, depending which portions of project the committee members agree are necessary.

Various individuals felt they wanted to consider the information they have received, but also expressed the need to tour the current school facility as part of this meeting. The consensus was the committee's business meeting would end and those interested would then tour the school facility.

Meeting Minutes:

Mr. DiPietro moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2017 meeting as printed. Second by Mr. Gonyea. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried.

Adjourn:

Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM, seconded by Mr. DiPietro. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the vote was passed unanimously.

A tour of the current AVS facility was conducted for the Committee members following the meeting.