

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 28, 2020

Attendees: **Darin Rathbun, Greg Barr, Mike Jones, Kate Doyle, Jen Waldow – HUNT**
Kristen Bruckner – BOE Member / Benner Parent
Jeff Steiner – Co-Chair - BOE Member
Bill MacMath – Retired Spring Twp. Manager/former BOE Member
Mark Badger – BOE Member
Doug Bates – Health Phys Ed
Chris Cipro – MW 5th Grade
Pam Griminger – PG 3rd Grade/Former Life Skills
Kacie Montgomery – BN 1st grade / lives near MW
Ken Bean – BASD Business Manager
Heather Manning – BN Parent / PTO board member
Aaron Barto – BASD Facilities
Rob Wagner – Bellefonte Borough resident – Code Official
Jayne Zimmerman – 4th & 5th ES Band, all 6 bldgs., BN resident
Eli Halterman – MW parent rep
Claudia Vinnedge – PG Parent PTO President
Jon Guizar – Parent in Bellefonte Borough, BOE President
Tammie Burnaford – Assist. Superintendent
Nate Campbell – Benner Parent, BN Planning Concerns
Jen Brown – Bellefonte Principal
Kris Vancas – Benner Principal
Daniel Besch
Nicole Kohlhepp
Karen Krisch

Notes by: Kate Doyle - HUNT

Copy To: File, Committee Members

Project: Bellefonte ASD BCS / Feasibility Study
Project No.: 3289.001

Purpose of the Meeting: Committee Meeting #3 – July 21st 2020

"The following are the author's representation of the main points of discussion. The meeting occurred on July 21, 2020 via Zoom Meeting. Please contact the author directly if there are any errors or omissions."

1. Reviewed Option 2 as the baseline to compare subsequent options.
2. Reviewed Options 3 – 7

Questions/Comments

3. Rob W. – Resale: BE, an immediate reaction is housing but there will be a lot of uproar from the community about turning into housing. Historical aspects of that street – would not want it to be housing.
 - a. It is the impact of the change from school to housing on the community
 - b. Jon G: Know that it is an item of concern and have been working on those items internally – no solution yet but there would have to be a solution set.
4. Pam G. – has there been any consideration on how the redistricting would look – as a PG teacher there are a lot of parents that work in State College so to move them further out would be a huge impact.
 - a. Mike J.: Looked at the redistricting map originally but did not dive too far into that solution at this time.
 - b. The sense of the drive feels out of the way at times and would have an impact on parents, especially those who use public transportation.
5. Jon G. – need to look at the budget again, originally had a budget of \$35 mil. Are we talking about \$35 mil, with upgrades, no taxes and no equity or a \$70 mil. with equity, upgrades, and a tax increase?
 - a. Ideally there is somewhere in the middle that might be the best solution

Next Steps

6. Releasing this information to the public – what are thoughts on our next steps?
 - a. Jon G.: Presentation at a board meeting or a public meeting
 - b. Today we are deciding if we have enough information that is suitable to the public. Is it understandable? Have we reach the limits of this discussion?
 - i. Ken B: Think we can present but see the options reduced to 4.
 1. First a board meeting then the public
 2. Condense for the public – summary sheets. Less information, they will more likely see all of them.
 3. Jon G.: 2 maybe 3 options
 - ii. Kristin: Agree with Ken – too many options, people will just look at a number and not weigh the information.
 - iii. Pam G.: Reduce the Options. Has there been any consideration for renovating PG and redistricting? Then there would be 3 equal schools with 2 in the town center.

1. Nate C: 3 schools and Benner is the one that loses; then there will still be push back as well. Might muddy the waters too much. Option 7 would have the biggest push back from the community all together. Option 1 is not enough.
 - a. Thoughts on Option 4? Easiest Sell is option 6– equal schools. Two equal schools wherever it happens to be located.
 - b. Jon G.: Financial impact to the taxpayer. Logistically what the best option may not be the best options financially. Need to bring in a firm to understand how the finances could work. Phasing? What costs does that add?
 - iv. Kristin: If there is a school by the HS if they do work in SC then its easy to get to by 99. Cut off some of the travel time.
7. What options could potentially be removed?
 - a. Mark B.: 2 (apples to apples), 4 and 5 (best value in the others)
 - b. Ken B: Keep 1 as well so they have minimum.
 - c. Jon G: Don't mind keeping all the options for the board and have their input on the full report and then reduce them down.
 - i. Option 1 and 2: 1 is where it all started – previous studies but did not consider equity. Does not make sense to do anything to the ES if we need to ignore equity. Important reference point. 2 – keeps the small school feel – can do it but costs more. All other options are a compromise to current community feedback. Good to have an overall understanding of where the options came from/about.
 - d. Should option 7 be removed at this point?
 - i. Still under 20-year restriction on MW need to go to 2028.
 - ii. Kristin: as a board member – voting to take off
 - iii. Community doesn't want a mega school.
 - iv. Will remove for the board presentation.
8. Timing will be critical for presentation as there is a lot going on with the start of school and other items going on.
 - a. Will need to keep plugging away to get to a point that the information is finalized.
 - b. Presenting to the Board should be the next step to including full board involvement. Wait on the public side of things.
 - i. Agreement from multiple committee member.
9. When we get to the public presentation
 - a. Some slight rewording/rework.
 - b. Education and Equity vs Building once
10. Anything else to add from the Principals
 - a. At this point no – would need a little more time to evaluate and response.

- b. HUNT can send the packet around again to review and make sure they have some time to comment.
 - i. Log of revisions would be helpful.
11. August Board Meeting Presentation
- a. No problem from the Principals – just getting the board up to speed on the current position.
 - b. Ken and Jon will look into the financial information and see if there is any thing that can be ready for the board meeting.