

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
POTSDAM CENTRAL SCHOOLS
BUILDING/GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION MEETING
Capital Construction Project Meeting
October 6, 2005

The B/G/T Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Ralph Fuller in the LGIR, A.A. Kingston Middle School.

Roll was called.

Roll Call

Members present: J. Patrick Turbett, President; Ann Carvill, Vice President; Mary Ashley Carroll, David Curry, Ralph Fuller, and Frances Scancarello.

Members absent: Jim Bunstone and Sandra Morris.

Also present were: Patrick Brady, Supt.; J. Gregory Jadlos, HS Principal; Richard Evans, M.S. Principal; Joann Chambers, Elem. Principal; Laura Hart, School Business Manager; Robert Brothers, Supt. of B&G; Arthur Wilson, Transportation Supervisor, Thomas Caruso, AD; Sharon Chase, Caf. Manager; Anthony Vaccaro, Teacher Assoc. President; Michael Lewis, Lance Myler, Marie Regan, two students, and King & King Architect Reps – Karen Winters and Fouad Hussein.

Mr. Brady gave an introduction/summary of the events leading up to this meeting.

Mr. Brady also discussed the following “new” propositions from King & King:

- 1.) Proposition #1 – Includes track & field plus two additional practice fields – \$ 21,513,004;
- 2.) Proposition #2 – Includes multi-purpose field & track without two additional Practice fields - \$ 21,812,304

Ann Carvill asked how long before the grass fields could be used (1 year – 2 seasons Spring & Fall).

David Curry asked why we put these propositions in? to save turf field?

Pat Brady & Ralph Fuller – No. Asked by BOE members to include some fieldwork in case second proposition failed.

Lance Myler asked what is covered by the costs?

Fouad Hussein replied that they are construction costs. The construction manager will verify the numbers.

David Curry was worried that proposition #1 contained only one field. He would like to take proposition #2 and add one more practice field to it, thus, making proposition #2 – 3 million.

Fouad Hussein said that is something for the Board to hash out.

Mary Ashley Carroll thinks the two propositions would be too complicated. It should be separated into three propositions. Keep multi-purpose field to solve some of our problems and to have it cleaner. Some Board members want needed work on all fields.

Ralph Fuller said that scheduling was looked at to see how they could make it all work.

Tom Caruso pointed out that other fieldwork was taken out to include turf field.

David Curry said that putting the turf field in might jeopardize the entire project. The overall price tag over \$ 21 million is worrisome to taxpayers.

Fouad Hussein asked if we should bring the \$ 19.1 million up to \$ 19.6 by adding one field, and then having a multi-purpose field as a separate proposition. Do Board members want this?

Mary and Ralph said no while David said yes.

Ann Carvill is trying to gauge how the public will react. People are generally supportive. When she learned what the needs of the district were from attending these meetings as well as the tours of the facilities, she completely turned around her opinion regarding the turf field. She would like to see us sell it.

Marie Regan said she feels this project needs to be sold to the community but does not know how the Board feels after listening to them at this meeting. She thinks each board member should not be worried about the public if each one is committed to the project. It should not be watered down.

Patrick Brady said Carl Normandin came to look at the fields with Robert Brothers and Tom Caruso. In his report he said that the fields are not "unsafe" for use and he has no major complaints. However, there are scheduling problems and drainage issues.

Lance Myler surveyed his patients about the bond issue:

- 45 people said they would vote in support but think it will fail,
- whole package without turf field would have passed and with turf would have failed by a wide margin, and
- package with turf field would have passed with a slim margin.

A female student said the fields get so wet and muddy. The turf field is no comparison - a much better field to play on.

Tony Vaccaro said how little a turf field costs the taxpayers.

Ann Carvill one of the headlines should be the state would pay 81.7% of project. She asked what the tax increase would be on a \$ 90,000 house. We need to sell the project in small digestible amounts. The Board should support the project. She asked the Board members present what each member would support.

David Curry left at 6:30 p.m.

Ann said she would support one proposition that included the multi-purpose field.

Frances Scancarello said she does not support one proposition. She does not feel the field is a health and safety issue. It's an extra-curricular issue. She does agree with renovations of the gym as it used for a core course. However, she will support it as a package.

Fouad Hussein noted the discussions of the Board have been perceived by public as not in "the packaging" but not agreeing on the extent of the project itself.

Patrick Brady would like to see a unanimous vote from the Board of Education for the project.

Fran and Ralph agreed with Patrick Brady. They doubted it would happen.

Pat Turbett thinks it's wrong to say if you don't support the packaging, you're not behind the project. He is extremely uncomfortable spending more money. He has taken a position on presenting two separate propositions to give the taxpayers a choice. He will work actively on getting the project to pass. He said we need to move ahead.

Ann Carvill said that separating components of the project sends a message to people that it's not needed.

Mary Ashley Carroll said it's perceived as more or less important if pulled out separately. We are looking at 40% of priority 1's from the master plan. She asked why not give people lots of choices – five or more. They would like to see all in there.

Mike Lewis said we should know the statistics of how many first and second propositions passed in votes.

Fouad said the second propositions normally don't pass. If all board members could have the same vote on the project this would make a considerable difference.

The group took a 15-minute break at 6:50 p.m.

Karen Winters gave a Power Point presentation on "Public Relations Initiative". She said the Board has about six weeks from November 1st through December 14 to sell the project. We need to get responsible people to help us.

- Goals for presenting project to the community:
- 1). Major project goals,
 - 2). Name/Theme for Project,
 - 3). Identify communication vehicles (TV, radio),
 - 4). Recruit/ID leaders (can advocate for people to go out and vote),
 - 5). Brainstorm Initiatives

The Board and administrators cannot tell the public how to vote. The Teachers' Association, PTA and student can!

- Major Project Goals:
- 1). Health & Safety is key
 - a. Infrastructure Improvements
 - b. Security/Access
 - c. Classroom Renovations
 - 2). Physical Education/Athletics Facility Improvements
 - 3). Groundwater Management
 - a. Flood & water control
 - b. Storm water Management (drainage)

Project Name: "District Renovation Project"

Theme: (A consistent message) – Mary suggested, "Investing in our Children's Future".

- Communication Vehicles:
- 1). Fact Sheet – newspapers & community meetings
 - 2). Brochure – direct mailing by November 15th to all district residents
 - 3). Display Boards – one in each building (2 in high school per Mary), display in a public place - both building & site would be on display
 - 4). Community meetings – get a team together to talk about same issues (consistent message), use fact sheet & brochures as handouts, conduct building tours
 - 5). Public meeting/hearing – held on December 6th, presentation formal vs. informal, public Q & A
 - 6). Newspapers – feature articles w/graphics, advertisements
 - 7). Radio/TV – Interview students/community members (3 main points per interview), reminder of vote day, have Clarkson TV show public meeting & show before vote, look at health & safety as a "positive" not a "destructive"
 - 8). Website – post information
 - 9). People connection – telephone reminder to vote days prior to vote, human billboards, letters to editor.

Conduct Exit Survey: Get pulse of community, why it passed or failed for next step.

Brochure: Effects on taxes - \$ 50,000; \$75,000; \$90,000; show STAR & Enhanced STAR; Pie chart to show how many cents per each category

No. 163
Adjourn.
Approved

Motion by R. Fuller, seconded by M. Ashley Carroll, to hereby be it resolved, to adjourn the meeting subject to the call of the Chair.

Yeas: All members present.
Nays: None.

Motion carried: 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Laura Hart, Clerk Pro-tem

David M. Yette, District Clerk