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## Meeting Minutes

**Project:** Wooster City Schools  
**Subject:** Business Advisory Committee  
**Date:** 2022-02-15  
Minutes issued – 2022-02-16

### In Attendance

Gabe Tudor ..... Superintendent, Wooster City School District  
Brian Madigan..... Assistant Superintendent, Wooster City School District  
Amy Welty .....Treasurer, Wooster City School District  
Jody Starcher .....Board of Education, Wooster City School District  
Molly Richard..... Director of Elementary Education, Wooster City School District  
Alex Mallue..... Athletic Director, Wooster City School District  
Rebecca Furlong..... Director of Technology, Wooster City School District  
Scott S. Miller ..... District Leadership Team HS, Wooster City School District  
Charles Cerniglia .....High School Science Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Amber Yacapraro .....Grade 3 Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Robin Gonzalez .....Grade 5 Reading, Wooster City School District  
Jodi Haiduc..... Kindergarten Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Bill Gantz .....2021/2022 Chair BAC  
Scott Allen ..... BAC  
Tim Bogner ..... BAC  
John Clay ..... BAC  
Doug Drushal..... BAC  
Tate Emerson ..... BAC  
Michael Mann..... BAC  
Nate Scott..... BAC  
Bill Whyte ..... BAC  
Rodwell King.....GPD Group

### Distribution

Attendees  
Joe Rubino .....Associate High School Principal, Wooster City School District  
Doug Bennett ..... Instrumental Music Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Deanna Boyd .....Grade 4 Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Katey Capotosta..... Grade 5 Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Abigail Orchard ..... Kindergarten Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Lee McBride.....BAC/College of Wooster  
Megan Werely.....BAC/College of Wooster  
Ken Bucheger ..... BAC  
John Campbell ..... BAC  
Rik Goodright ..... BAC  
Lawrence Walker..... BAC/Community Member/NAACP  
Mark Salopek.....GPD Group  
Becky McAdams .....GPD Group

- B. Gantz opened the meeting and gave an overview of where the previous meeting had concluded. Essentially what had been decided was a Master Plan that provided for 2 elementary schools, an intermediate school, and renovations to the high school. It was noted that the structure of the elementary schools had been left open as well as the envisioned grade banding.
- G. Tudor indicated that since the last meeting of the BAC, he had shared the plan and the concept of grade banding with the Board of Education. The Master Plan proposal was on the District's website and part of the "Tudor Talks" and was therefore out in the public arena.

He had also met with the Impact Group and discussed the strategies with them. They had suggested that the District should focus on the narrative of 'why' when discussing the 3 options with the public. His opinion was therefore that the BAC should drive what the grade bands should be and that the public should provide direction on the timing and the locations of the proposed schools.

He hoped that today's discussion would include opinion on:

- Whether the intermediate school should be a Middle School (grades 6, 7, 8) or a Junior High (grades 7, 8);
- Retention of the presence at Cornerstone and what grades at that location;
- The grades of the 3<sup>rd</sup> building.

G. Tudor had also met with Rick Manoloff (bond counsel) who had provided some advice as to the structuring of the financing/bond issue. It was noted that the bond language should not be specific on the locations of the proposed building although it was important for that information to be made available to the public.

- There was discussion on how the plan should be implemented and the implications thereof. It was noted that 8<sup>th</sup> grade (at WHS) is growing as are 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades at Edgewood and that the initial construction of the Middle School was therefore important. It was considered that the best scenario would be for the Middle School and the replacement for Cornerstone to be built in the first phase and the 3<sup>rd</sup> building to be built

once the OFCC contribution was received (could be in 10-12 years' time). T. Bogner felt that because of its age, the replacement of Cornerstone should be highest priority and encouraged G. Tudor to stress this aspect when discussing the plan. It was noted however that ideally the gym and the pre-school at Cornerstone would be maintained.

- The options for swing space were discussed. Noted that trailers are costly. The construction of the new Middle School would allow Edgewood to be used as a transition building. The issue with the simultaneous construction of the new Cornerstone would be the location of those students during construction as building on the occupied Cornerstone parcel would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

S. Miller suggested that perhaps the Play Lab be "mothballed" allowing for construction of a new Cornerstone on the same parcel as the existing (occupied) building, and a new Play Lab be constructed as part of the new building.

- It was noted that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade would become part of the elementary school once complete but it was suggested that in the interim 5<sup>th</sup> grade move with grades 6 & 7 to the new Middle School and then get relocated later (8<sup>th</sup> grade to remain at the High School in the interim).
- Locations of the new buildings were discussed:
  - Middle School – to be built on the High School campus. Should this be on land (to be acquired) to the north, or on District property across Oldman Road to the south? Could Oldman Road be closed to through traffic? It was noted that even if the new Middle School be constructed to the south, the District's interests would best be served if the northern parcels be acquired as part of a 50-year planning strategy.
  - Elementary school – could Parkview be an alternate location to provide a "southern" presence? It was considered that traffic could be an issue for a Parkview location. This would be along with a smaller school at Cornerstone.
  - As an interim measure, could the Cornerstone students be spread around in existing District-owned facilities? It was noted that there are currently between 250 – 300 students per grade and those are the numbers that should be used when determining where students could be located.

S. Miller and R. Gonzalez both attempted to provide some thoughts on how students could be accommodated:

Scenario A:

Grades 7 – 12 at WHS; Grades 6, 5, 4 at Edgewood, Grade 3 at Melrose, Grades 2 & 1 at Parkview and K/PK at Kean

Scenario B:

Grades 7 – 12 at WHS; Grades 6, 5, 4 at new Middle School, Grades 3, 2, 1 at Edgewood , and K/PK at Kean

- Action Steps for the next meeting:
  - GPD to review if there could be new construction on the Cornerstone parcel while the existing building is occupied;
  - GPD to review locations for the new Middle School;
  - GPD to review the feasibility of a building at Parkview;
  - District to review the possible shuffling of students around the District in the eventuality that Cornerstone is rebuilt at first;
  - G. Tudor to talk with the Noble Foundation about acquiring the parcels located to the north of Wooster High School.
  
- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday March 8, 2022 at **8.00am** at the High School Meeting Room

End of Minutes

The preceding is GPD's interpretation of the meeting. Any changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.