



Meeting Minutes

Project: Wooster City Schools
Subject: Business Advisory Committee
Date: 2022-03-29
Minutes issued – 2022-03-30

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
John Myers Assistant 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
Katey Capotosta Grade 5 Teacher, Wooster City School District
Robin Gonzalez Grade 5 Reading, Wooster City School District
Abigail Orchard Kindergarten Teacher, Wooster City School District
Jodi Haiduc Kindergarten Teacher, Wooster City School District
Bill Gantz 2021/2022 Chair BAC
Tim Bogner BAC
Doug Drushal BAC
Tate Emerson BAC (via Zoom)
Kathy Glasgow BAC
Michael Mann BAC
Nate Scott BAC
Bill Whyte BAC
Rodwell King GPD Group
Mark Salopek GPD Group
Abby Rainieri 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
Amber Yacapraro Grade 3 Teacher, Wooster City School District
John Campbell BAC
Scott Allen BAC
Ken Bucheger BAC
John Clay BAC
Ashley Hershberger BAC/City of Wooster
Lee McBride BAC/College of Wooster
Lawrence Walker BAC/Community Member/NAACP
Megan Werely BAC/College of Wooster
Rik Goodright BAC
Becky McAdams GPD Group

- After B. Gantz opened the meeting, G. Tudor gave an overview of the presentations that he had made to the community and Lions Club. It was noted that:
 - The community meeting that had been held at the Library had had an audience of 8-10 people and that the positives that had come out of that meeting were the openness to grade banding and the understanding of the desire for equity and collaboration in the District. There had however been some pushback at the potential "loss" of Cornerstone primarily because of its heritage and historical significance (it was designated as a landmark by the City and any renovation/redevelopment would therefore need to be submitted to the City's Design Review Board). The feasibility of potential renovation was also questioned.
 - Attendees at the Lions Club had, on the other hand, felt that Cornerstone could be demolished/replaced.
 - G. Tudor would present again to the Community tonight and to the Kiwanis later today. Additional layouts of two buildings (elementary & middle schools) at the parcels north of the High School as well as a redevelopment of the Cornerstone building in its current location would be presented.
- B. Gantz indicated that he would like the BAC to provide a recommendation to the Board of Education of a Master Plan to be considered at their April 26, 2022 meeting.

The Master Plan envisioned:

- New PK-2 school to be built at the Cornerstone parcel;
 - New grades 3-5 elementary to be built on a parcel yet to be determined;
 - New grades 6-8 middle school to be built at the north end adjacent to the existing high school;
 - Edgewood to be utilized for long-term(+/- 10 years) swing space;
 - Kean, Melrose & Parkview schools to be utilized for short-term (+/- 2 years) swing space.
- B. Gantz noted 4 important factors to be considered:
- The OFCC funding would provide 33% of the total costs;
 - The District would adopt grade-banding for grades K-12;
 - The acquisition of additional parcels was necessary;
 - The TIF funding was necessary for infrastructure.
- G. Tudor indicated that the Board of Education had, at their last meeting, authorized entering into a contract with Craycraft for the purchase of their Milltown Road parcel and that the due diligence phase was in process. He also noted that discussions were under way with the Noble Foundation for the purchase of their Milltown Road parcel.
 - In other discussion on the topic of the Master Plan:
 - D. Drushal noted that the aesthetics of the existing Cornerstone building should not be discounted as there already was discussion in the community about this;

- G. Tudor indicated that according to the last census, Wooster had experienced a 4.3% growth in population;
 - T. Emerson expressed concern about traffic on Milltown Road and the impact of that on the school(s) to be constructed with access onto Milltown. R. King noted that part of the TIF funding included improvements to Milltown so perhaps these concerns might be addressed in those improvements. A traffic study might provide further information. R. King also noted that a vehicular connection to the high school parcel could be possible but there was a grade change and this connection might therefore prove difficult;
 - N. Scott understood that there were 2 phases of the implementation of the Master Plan – Phase 1 being construction of two buildings, not necessarily simultaneously, and Phase 2 being the construction of the third building only once the co-funded credit from the OFCC had been received by Wooster City Schools;
 - G. Tudor stated that the TIF needs to be presented to the Board of Education and approved before it could take effect.
- B. Gantz asked whether the priority should not rather be given in Phase 1 to the construction of the two elementary schools (Cornerstone PK-2 and 3-5) as growth at the elementary level provided significant impetus to the Master Plan?

Should the new Middle School be a priority for Phase 1?

What will “sell” better, especially as there was apparently some distrust from about 30 years ago? G. Tudor noted that his goal would be to have members of the BAC present the Master Plan to the Board of Education and his role would be to provide additional clarification.

Following discussion on how an initial Phase 1 with 2 elementary schools be implemented, consensus was that the Middle School should be done first, grade banding could then be implemented with transitioning grades 3-5 to Edgewood as swing space, then the other existing elementaries could be used as swing space while Cornerstone is redeveloped.

In this discussion, M. Mann asked about the economies of scale that could be achieved by building two schools simultaneously. It could be argued that the possible savings through simultaneous construction would be the costs of inflation (nominally 3% per year, and even possibly higher) but that locked in the Phase 1 construction to the new parcels north of the high school.

In conclusion, it was felt that the implementation plan & schedule would be the domain of the Board of Education and the Administration, not the BAC.

- A. Orchard asked whether there had been any further discussion on the topic of moving the Board offices from the current downtown location. In reply, G. Tudor indicated that has not yet been determined but was perhaps a topic for Phase 2 of the implementation of the Master Plan when there was a better understanding of what buildings/properties might be disposed of.

- **Next Meeting:** Not scheduled.

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.