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## Meeting Minutes

**Project:** Wooster City Schools  
**Subject:** BAC Master Planning Review Meeting  
**Date:** 2021-11-03  
Minutes issued – 2021-11-XX

### In Attendance

Gabe Tudor ..... Superintendent, Wooster City School District  
Brian Madigan ..... Assistant Superintendent, Wooster City School District  
Joe Rubino ..... Director of Athletics, Wooster City School District  
Alex Mallue ..... Assistant Director of Athletics, Wooster City School District  
Rebecca Furlong ..... Director of Technology, Wooster City School District  
Ben Ott ..... District Technology Paraprofessional, Wooster City School District  
Charles Cerniglia ..... High School Science Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Scott S. Miller ..... District Leadership Team HS, Wooster City School District  
Doug Bennett ..... Instrumental Music Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Abigail Orchard ..... Kindergarten Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Amber Yacapraro ..... Grade 3 Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Robin Gonzalez ..... Grade 5 Reading, 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  
Rodwell King ..... GPD Group  
Mark Salopek ..... GPD Group

### Distribution

Attendees  
Amy Welty ..... Treasurer, Wooster City School District  
Katey Capotosta ..... Grade 5 Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Deanna Boyd ..... Grade 4 Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Jodi Haiduc ..... Kindergarten Teacher, Wooster City School District  
Lee McBride ..... College of Wooster  
Ken Bucheger ..... BAC  
John Campbell ..... BAC  
Rik Goodright ..... BAC  
Lawrence Walker ..... Community Member/NAACP  
Megan Werely ..... College of Wooster  
Bill Whyte ..... BAC  
Becky McAdams ..... GPD Group

- Agenda:
  - Gabe Tudor - Update
  - Rodwell King – Master Plan Options

- Update

The group was updated by the Superintendent as to recent developments regarding the land swap. It was noted that this week the Board of Education had pulled the parcel south of Oldman Road from the rezoning application to the City because of a deed restriction. It was noted therefore that the School would retain ownership of that land and would therefore need to still purchase the parcel north of the High School campus from the Noble Foundation, as well as possibly purchase the adjacent Craycraft property. Therefore, any reference to the “new site” in today’s presentation could mean property either south of the High School or north of the High School with the exact location to be future determined. The message to the community for their support does not change as it still relates to aging buildings, increasing enrollment and the desire for improved educational environments for the students.

It is noted that the District is in process of developing an additional turf field and athletic track at the High School which, although it would be a boon to the High School and community, was intended as being utilized by the Middle School and this should be factored into today’s discussions about the placement of the Middle School. A location for the Middle School on the High School campus would also obviously provide better educational opportunities for Middle School students.

The Superintendent also advised that he had been in contact with Bill Prenosil from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) in order to start the application process for OFCC funding.

B. Gantz noted that a question had been raised as to schedule and the response was that the goal would be to provide a recommendation to the Board of Education so that they may weigh a November 2022 ballot issue.

- Master Plan Options

R. King reiterated the 5 possible options that had been initially presented at the 10/19/21 meeting (and included in the meeting notes that had been disseminated to the Committee) but with the addition of some cost information. The cost information was essentially included to demonstrate the order of magnitude but would be fine-tuned by the OFCC once they were on board.

With respect to costs, the question was asked what the situation would be if ESSER funds were spent at Edgewood for air-conditioning and electrical upgrades. R. King stated that as the cost of renovating the building would be over 2/3 of the cost of the cost of new, a waiver would have to be obtained from the OFCC and the OFCC would then only co-fund a portion of the total cost, with

the balance being 100% local cost. However, money spent on the building now would impact the building condition and the OFCC would have to re-assess the costs as a whole.

R. King went on to say that if Edgewood was being considered as part of the Master Plan, it needs to be studied in more detail to ensure that the OFCC did not include the Boys & Girls Club addition in their calculations as this addition was not utilized for educational purposes.

B. Gantz stated that in response to a question regarding building capacities, that information had been included in the information in the presentation.

From review of the various options some salient points to consider included:

- It was implicit that Cornerstone would address Pre-K in all plans so there was no need for Pre-K at any of the elementary buildings and that this would maintain a presence at Cornerstone.
- With the multiple buildings, divided by grade banding, there was a possibility of 4 transitions in a student's school life. The counter argument to this was that all students would be going through the same transition at the same time;
- The impact and significance of location of schools – would there be the perception of a north/south divide if there were two equal elementary schools constructed at the Cornerstone site and the High School campus area?
- Multiple buildings located within communities might better be tied into the City's vision of connectivity, walkability, sustainability etc.
- The discussion on "neighborhood" schools versus grade-level schools continued from the previous meeting. It was noted that the educators preferred grade-level schools for multiple reasons, including:
  - Currently the same curriculum is taught differently at multiple schools but with grade-level schools all students would receive the same instruction;
  - There would be greater opportunities for collaboration, not only by teachers but also by students;
  - Diversity would be experienced equally in the schools as opposed to some schools which had greater or less diversity based on geographic location;
  - Grade-level schools would provide better resources, an example of which was consolidation of special education units as opposed to the units being spread across the District.
- It was felt that the positives of the community schools had been lost over the years. For example, few students walk to schools anymore because parents may have the perception that it is not safe for them to do so.
- A further point to consider would be what would Edgewood look like in another 50 years?

Discussion turned to what should be presented to the community for their input. Nate Scott felt that the presentation to the community should be prefaced with

the values that had been discussed in the various meetings of this community and this discussion might lead to the community to hone in on a plan.

Essentially the plan had been distilled to the following factors:

- A presence should be maintained at Cornerstone,
- The Middle School should be located at the High School campus;
- There were options as to what to do with the elementary schools.

There was some support for presenting one plan, with an explanation of why that plan was preferred but there were some opinions as to whether more than one should be presented. Three options to be presented might be:

- A plan with an elementary presence (grade configuration to be determined) at Cornerstone;
- A plan with no elementary presence at Cornerstone;
- A plan with more “community” elementary schools (grade configuration to be determined).

Master Plan Option #4 was suggested as a possible plan to present, but with no determination of grade alignment at the elementary schools which could foster discussion on whether they should be grade-level schools or not.

It was resolved that the next meeting(s) would focus on what and how that should be presented to the community in that series of meetings.

- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday November 30, 2021 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.