

A Board Workshop of the Members of the Board of Education and Administrators of the Goshen Central School District, Orange County, New York was held in the Board of Education Room at the Main Street School on Monday, September 26, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussion on a proposed capital project.

Present: Mrs. Judy Green, President
Mrs. Martha Bogart, Vice President
Mr. Jeremy Cassel
Mr. Michael Lorenzo
Mr. Thomas Mullane
Mr. Jason Pucci
Mrs. Allison Salte

Superintendent of Schools Mr. Daniel T. Connor
Assistant Superintendent for Business Mr. Robert Miller
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Personnel and Technology Mr. Kurtis Kotes
Members of the Faculty, Press and Citizens of the District

The workshop was called to order by President, Mrs. Judy Green at 6:36 p.m.

Matt Milnamow and Michael McGovern from LAN Associates joined the Board to discuss the latest schematic plan design for the proposed capital project. The preliminary design has evolved as a result of LAN's meetings with all departments and individuals that will be impacted the most by the scope of work for the proposed bond referendum. The design is not set in stone at this point. There is still opportunity to revise it. LAN had prepared the preliminary plan submission to be reviewed tonight for NYSED to review the project and determine the appropriate BAU's (Building Aid Units) to identify the proposed bond referendum's eligibility for building aid.

The proposed site plan was reviewed. To improve the safety of the student drop-off zone, there would be a new drop-off loop, which would have no comingling of buses and cars. An additional parking lot is added, which would provide approximately 160 additional parking spaces to the current 166 spaces. This would be beneficial when there are school and athletic events.

Mr. Cassel noted that the last plan the Board viewed had two fields. This plan has one field. Mr. Milnamow noted that the turf practice field is on a "B" list of projects that can be addressed if funds allow after bidding and construction. Mr. Mullane noted that athletes need to practice on grass fields in addition to synthetic turf. Mr. Pucci agreed added that the game is different on both types of surface. He went on to note that having only one field may cause scheduling issues. Mr. Milnamow stated that adding the additional turf field would cross the project over the threshold of 0% increase to the tax levy. Mr. Miller added that an additional \$2 million will be added to the capital reserve since the original estimate. Mr. Miller also noted that site work gets little or no aid, therefore the cost of the additional field would have to come from the capital reserve money. Mr. Cassel felt that when contemplating a project of this size, considering future needs must be addressed. He suggested adding the additional field back into the scope of the project. After discussion on where to place the field, the area where the current practice field is located was determined to be the best situated, as well as the safest area. Mr. Pucci suggested that lights are needed for the field as well. Mr. Connor mentioned that the driveway around the back of the high school needs to be addressed to make it safer to access the second field. Closing the access to the back driveway was suggested. Mr. Mullane also felt that irrigation of the current natural grass fields needs to be addressed. Mrs. Salte initiated some discussion with regard to ADA improvements at Mount Olympus. A spare conduit to provide IT connectivity to the proposed athletic facility was discussed.

The new addition to the front of the building was discussed. Mr. Milnamow stated that 6-8 additional classrooms are needed at the high school as a result of the Building Condition Survey. This plan would have 9 additional spaces which includes three new classrooms. The remainder of additional classroom space would result from converting office spaces on the second floor of "A" wing back to classrooms and reconfiguring current classroom space to allow for a new STEAM curriculum to be added. The STEAM lab would be located in the area of the existing woodshop. This would minimize the overall cost of the bond and provide a more functional layout. The layout of the STEAM lab was discussed. Mr. Milnamow explained that the plan being reviewed tonight has 3 additional classrooms, while the last plan the Board viewed had 4 new additional classrooms. He noted one classroom was removed to keep the project under the 0% tax levy increase threshold. The Board felt it is best to add back the fourth classroom in the plan, since classroom space is always needed and is worth the additional expense.

Mr. Pucci inquired if the music, art, technology and food service departments were content with the plans involving their areas. LAN confirmed the designs are reflective of feedback and comments provided by these high school departments.

The conditions of the sidewalks in front of the high school, as well as the walkway to Scotchtown Avenue, were discussed. Mr. Pucci felt that addressing them with the project would be the most cost effective approach rather than waiting three years in the future. Mr. Milnamow noted that the area to renovate is quite large. He suggested pavers as a less expensive alternative, but pavers would not last as long as concrete.

Mr. Pucci asked Mr. Milnamow if he has heard anything back from Core BTS regarding their final cost estimate. Mr. Milnamow responded that he had not. It is the only open cost estimate in the plan. LAN indicated the cost estimate prepared for the installation of cable as part of the proposed IT improvements was increased by 30% to budget for the hybrid installation of Cat 6 & Cat 6a cabling. There was some discussion with regard to procuring an Office of General Services (OGS) vendor and/or competitively bidding the IT upgrades. Mr. Miller consulted with the District auditor and attorney, both of whom confirmed the need to competitively bid the project. While bidding may produce the lowest price, the quality of the products used may effect the project. Mr. Lorenzo is very concerned with that possibility. The products used may be on the low end, and may be outdated a short time later. Mr. Lorenzo indicated he would like to do the improvements right the first time. LAN suggested the BOE pass a resolution to specify the installation of proprietary products (if they wanted specific manufacturers for routers and/or switches to integrate with the District's existing technology). LAN indicated that a consultant should be hired to design the IT upgrades, provide guidance during the bid process (review substitutions), review the submittals after the bid is awarded and review the completed installation. LAN indicated this cost will need to be added to the list of incidental costs budgeted for the proposed bond referendum. This is an expense that LAN had not anticipated.

Mrs. Green inquired how all the construction work will be accomplished while school is in session. Mr. McGovern and Mr. Milnamow responded that there will be a sequential schedule of plans to follow. Most of the dangerous work will be done while school is not in session.

LAN will make the following changes to the plan: add the second turf field including an additional light pole, sidewalk improvements in front of "A" wing and sidewalks to Scotchtown Avenue, natural irrigation and fourth classroom added back. The Board will review the revised plan at the October 3, 2016 Board Meeting.

The workshop was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Mrs. Green thanked everyone for attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Farrell
District Clerk