

Special Facilities Pre-Application Site Visit Minutes
July 31, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Superintendent Ken Kenworthy called the presentation to order at 10:00 a.m.

Superintendent Kenworthy asked each member of the Pre-Application Committee to introduce themselves. Present were: David Thayer, Director of the Office of Educational Facilities, Dominic Gemelli, Lee County School District Facility Planner, Marty Sanders, St. Lucie School District Facility Planner, and Mark Weigly, Construction Planning Manager of the Office of Educational Facilities.

Also present: School Board Vice Chairman Melisa Jahner, Dylan Tedders, Lauren Myers, Vicki Goggans, Shawna May, Ben Wagoner, Brian Barrett, Jessie Herd, Brent Stuart, Steve Dobbs, Greg Kelley, Sandy Perry, Jennifer Tewskbury, Jenny Pung, Ashley Tripp, Corey Wheeler, Sharon Vinson, Zach Reister and Christina Coker.

Superintendent Kenworthy explained the day's schedule would include a Special Facilities Presentation, tour of the High School, travel to the Freshman Campus for a tour, and finalizing the day at the OFC Auditorium with lunch and deliberations.

The presentation began with Superintendent Kenworthy sharing a Power Point presentation on the demographics of the community, 2015 Castaldi Analysis, construction project, age of buildings at both campuses, what the construction project would entail, Special Facilities Age by Percentage graph, duplication of services and impact on instruction. The presentation also included a video of a bus ride from the Freshman Campus to OHS. The video displayed the amount of time in daily missed instruction when students must travel back and forth between two campuses.

Director of Finance Corey Wheeler provided information on the Capital Outlay Funds and ranking of funds generated.

Assistant Superintendent Dylan Tedders presented information on the duplication of services, OFC capacity, students shuttling from OFC to OHS to receive instruction, ADA compliance, safety and security.

Greg Kelley, CRA Architects, provided details of the current issues and concerns at OFC and OHS.

Lauren Myers, Principal of Okeechobee High School, and Vicki Goggans, Senior Administrator for the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, provided additional slides in the presentation outlining the impact of our current facility on instruction and student life and equal opportunities for a rural district.

Brian Barrett, Director of Operations, outlined the problems with the older campus as it relates to air conditioning, plumbing, flooding, electrical concerns, technology concerns, traffic patterns, ADA compliance, air quality, roofing, asphalt problems, energy management concerns and increasing maintenance costs.

No public comments came from the zoom audience. Ashley Tripp, Economic Council, stated that the current condition of the campus is showing students that they should settle for less: less from instruction, less from facilities and less participation in competitive events. Sandy Perry, Economic Council, congratulated the band for their size and ability despite the facilities. Superintendent Kenworthy also congratulated Drama for their performances considering the stage, practice and storage concerns for Drama.

The document review concluded and the group toured the High School and noted the following:

- Lack of compliance with ADA with no elevator in building 6, bathrooms not accessible, etc.
- Art room capacity
- Flooding of science and math buildings, lift stations
- Open air bathrooms
- Size of band and drama rooms
- Condition of the auditorium needed new lights, carpet under the seat, ADA restrooms, etc.
- Gymnasiums concerns with bleacher capacity, plumbing, locker rooms space, etc.
- Café doubles as wrestling room, outside meals – weather permitting
- Multiple failed bathrooms across the campus
- The condition of Building 14 having been built in 1966
- Window tinting to keep out the sun

- Air conditioner replacement needs
- Traffic patterns that mix student foot traffic, cars and buses and the need for asphalt replacement
- Roof rapidly exceeding life expectancy
- Sewage lift station needs
- Maintenance trends by school showing increased costs and personnel
- Poor electrical design and upgrades needed
- Poor air quality
- Storage capacity
- Confidentiality concerns with portable walls and no office space for counselors

The contingency traveled to the Freshman Campus to tour the facility.

- Capacity of the cafeteria
- Condition of the art room
- Gymnasium concerns with flooring, locker rooms, heat and AC
- Staircases in the main building
- Small classrooms
- Small, oddly configured office space, lack of confidentiality
- Utilization of rooms in the District office basement due to capacity

The group moved to the Auditorium for a brief lunch break. The meeting resumed, Mr. Kenworthy asked committee members if they had any additional questions. After a brief discussion, Mr. Thayer stated that they did not have any questions and dismissed everyone but committee members to deliberate.

Mr. Thayer reopened the meeting and thanked the District. The committee recommended that Okeechobee be considered for Special Facilities funding. The District will receive a date to present their case later this month in Tallahassee. If successful, the funding would be added to the 2020-21 Legislative Budget request for funding.

The meeting concluded at 2:40 p.m.