

NORTH ROSE-WOLCOTT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

MAY 10, 2012

6:00 PM

Room 210 OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENT:

Judi Buckalew, John Boogaard, Robert Cahoon, Kathy DeAngelis, Kari Durham (6:15 PM), Kelly Ferrente, Gary Sproul, Philip Wagner

Elena LaPlaca, John Walker and 7 guests.

ABSENT

Brigette Henry

Kathy DeAngelis left the meeting at 6:45 PM and returned at 7:25 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

Philip Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

1a. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kelly Ferrente moved and Robert Cahoon seconded the following motion. The vote was unanimous. J. Buckalew, J. Boogaard, R. Cahoon, K. DeAngelis, P. Wagner voted yes.

Be it resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the agenda of May 10, 2012.

1b. DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL PROPOSALS

John Walker stated that he would be addressing questions asked during forums, from emails and any received by the board and forwarded to him. Mr. Walker distributed the questions and answers from the forums. The document is attached to the minutes.

- The focus of the proposal has been on students and then fiscal responsibility. He reminded board members that there are only two issues to this discussion. First, our students: educating them in the future. Second, fiscal responsibility: spend money for optimum education space.
- In referring to the Building Condition Survey (BCS), priority ones should be done within the next 3 years. The costs for renovations or new construction are large. The State Education Department dictates what we are allowed to build/renovate and the aid available. It is referred to as maximum cost allowance - the amount of funding we will get aid on regardless of how much money is spent.
- The costs to renovate the interior of the Leavenworth building are the same as expanding and renovating the Florentine building: \$10 million.
- If the board made the decision to renovate the Florentine building, the priority one items from the BCS that pertain to the Leavenworth building would have to be completed within the next 3-4 years.
- The board must also consider repairs to the bus garage and bus storage building. These facilities are not aidable and the costs associated with renovation and repair are the sole responsibility of the district..
- The cost increase of delaying a decision by the board on Leavenworth/Florentine buildings is estimated at 4-5% per year.
- SED has rules that districts must follow for doing repairs to unoccupied buildings. We must request aid, but it would be at a

lower ratio. If the building is occupied with various programs: after school programs, summer school, etc. then aid ratio would be much higher.

- The district was planning to use the Florentine School building for summer programs as North Rose - Wolcott Elementary and Leavenworth were scheduled for renovations this summer. The SED has such a backlog that plans did not get approved.
- The Leavenworth building will still be used by the district, especially the auditorium. Renovations and additions to the Florentine Hendrick building do not include an auditorium.
- Speculates that the district would save money on heat and electricity. There were some questions about whether or not this is true. Data will be provided to the board on the historical costs of heating and electricity for Leavenworth and Florentine.
- What are the enrollment projections for next 10 years? That information will be provided.
- Do we have the deed to Leavenworth? John Walker has contacted the Wayne County Clerk who is researching his request. It is his understanding that there are up to 6 parcels of property involved.
- If area districts consolidated, the Leavenworth building could not accommodate more students. North Rose - Wolcott Elementary and High School buildings can absorb students. The Florentine Hendrick building could hold 40-60 students after renovations.
- Will SED allow a district to share a principal between two buildings? Yes, as long as there is an administrator present when principal is not there.
- If the district reconfigured grade groupings, would we be able to provide a better educational setting for students?
- Is there an optimum grade configuration per building? John Boogaard was asked to comment as he has the most experience at that level. Mr. Boogaard said that a middle school or midlevel 7-8 is ideal. Adding either grade 6 or grade 9 to that group is acceptable.
- The middle school grades can be separated into different areas as is done in North Rose - Wolcott Elementary.
- Support was voiced for the proposal, based on facts. Looking at the best use of district financial resources, is convinced that the Florentine building is the best site for middle school students and provides the best opportunity to our students for a sound educational future.
- Are there long range plans to ensure the North Rose - Wolcott Elementary building is as structurally sound as the High School? There has not been a long range plan for maintaining buildings.
- Think that when we only look at fiscal, renovating the Florentine building is the best way to spend our money.
- Have attachment to the building and hope that good plans will come from the board and community to utilize the Leavenworth building. Want it to continue to be of value to the community.
- Looking at the financials, the decision is quite easy. The community will decide when they vote for the bond issue. Don't see anything number wise that would make me vote no.

- Fiscally it makes sense although it has been hard to extrapolate emotions from the issue. Adding science wing is still a struggle as I don't know if that is what is needed.
- Was not a graduate of Leavenworth. The building is very adaptable as is if administration wants to work with what is there. In the past we segregated students and programs and made it work. The idea of community center has been downplayed. The building is the Village of Wolcott and to have it unused and derelict sends a message to those moving into the area. Bad image. The Florentine building is much more adaptable for use by the community.
- We are so concerned about what someone may think of an empty school building when the houses on New Hartford Street are derelict. That sways people now when they consider moving into the Village. The building will still be will maintained and won't be a deterrent to families moving into the Village.
- The school district can be the draw. A good education system must be the backbone of the community, not the buildings. How do we make the community and graduating students want to come back her? Do we provide the educational environment that makes the area attractive?
- Look at what education is today and what type of program fosters it. It is changing every day. There have been three different schools on that property. Someone has a vision and it changed and a second building was erected. The first building was destroyed. Visions changed again and current building was erected and it was the best that was - state of the art in 1934. Vision was what would serve students best. Looking at just the negative stifles vision of what can serve the community in the future. Work to make the plan well-thought-out and a vision for the future.
- As a board member want to try to provide best learning environment and education for our students. The Florentine building is the way to go. You have to prove that space constraints at Leavenworth building would be a better choice at a better financial scenario. The Board of Education is about educating students. We will want help from community to utilize the building when the time comes.

At this time the meeting was open to public comment

- Questions pertaining to what notices are given to the public to advertise a meeting.
- Who establishes and determines the BCS items? (The architect)
- Some level 1 items for the Leavenworth building will have to be addressed.
- No reason to sell building until state aid is at a break-even level where selling building is equals or better than the amount of state aid that the district would have to pay back.
- The Florentine building was put up for sale. Never listed with a commercial realtor.
- Board of Education decided in open session to sell that building and had discussions about using the Leavenworth building –all on the agenda and in open session.

- The success rate of selling a vacant school building in the area is zero.
- In terms of usage of Leavenworth after moving students to the Florentine building: there were some initial inquiries from businesses if space becomes available. Haven't actively pursued tenants at this time as it is 3-5 years from fruition. No projections for use, just thoughts.
- Projected bond vote no later than November-December.
- Can two different propositions be put out to voters?
- The closing of the Leavenworth building will be detrimental to the viability of the Village.
- Leaving that building empty will not be the cause of the community dying - it will be apathy.
- Thank to Kari for her letter in newsletter. It is the crux of the problem.
- It is a societal problem, not just North Rose - Wolcott.
- Other realities - costs to consolidate the district to one campus is \$40-50 million.

Additional info that the board will need to continue the discussion at the May 22nd meeting are: enrollment projections, information from the County Clerk on the deed, operating expense comparisons for both buildings.

ADJOURNMENT

John Boogaard moved and Kelly Ferrente seconded the following motion. The vote was unanimous. J. Buckalew, J. Boogaard, R. Cahoon, K. DeAngelis, K. Durham, K. Ferrente, G. Sproul, P. Wagner voted yes.

Be it resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the adjournment of the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Clerk of the Board of Education