

City of Hyattsville Educational Facilities Task Force

Thursday, January 20th, 2022 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Dan Muth, Kat Schooley, Stuart Eisenberg, John Imahori, Dan Broder, Sarah Weston, Joanne Waszczak, Sam Denes

Special Guests: Jason Washington, Karen Summerville, Pam Boozer-Strother, Cheri Vincent

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by chair Dan Muth
2. Middle School Updates:
 - a. Jason Washington and guests Karen Summerville and Cheri Vincent detailed the progress of the Hyattsville Middle School build and noted that to date the project was on schedule. They hope to erect steel in the next couple weeks while finishing site work and pouring the final concrete footings and slabs. It was generally noted by Task Force members that so far the build has gone exactly as promised.
 - b. Further discussion took place regarding some of the pitfalls that may yet await given a pandemic and world-wide supply chain disruptions. And the urgency of this build given the extreme swing space situation.
 - i. HMS is the first of six schools to have concrete in the ground. With footings in and steel work started.
 - ii. Gilbane, at the direction of PGCPs, is prioritizing this build given the disruption to the staff and students that is currently going on.
 - iii. Steel was pre-ordered for all builds so they are not running into the same shortages other projects currently are.
3. FAQ's:
 - a. It was noted that the FAQ's regarding the building construction have not been updated in quite awhile.
 - b. Build team assured the community that they will be updated within a week so that the public can remain apprised of the build progress.
4. Phase II ACF updates:
 - a. Part of build to learn act was vetoed by the governor but overruled.
 - b. So the County now has direct money in the amount of 25 million a year to help fund the phase II ACF (Alternate Constructing Financing).
 - c. Interagency commission of school construction would release funds and be composed of representatives from the County and State. Requires MOU signed off by all parties to outline roles and responsibilities. Can't start procurement this is done and the draft MOU is happening now to set rules for governance of phase II.

- d. The Council has established a work group comprised of staff to figure out affordability, value for money analysis, type of school desired, and the subsequent performance requirements.
 - e. The slate of schools must be approved by early fall. No later than October.
 - f. The desired break-ground of the new phase II schools will be in 2024.
5. How Hyattsville Elementary fits in:
- a. The baseline criteria for prioritizing the new slate of schools will be finishing out the Cycle One schools as identified in the Master Plan Support Project. And Hyattsville Elementary is the next Elementary School up on that list.
 - b. But with the State now involved, extra layers of politics may be involved. We will have to be diligent in reminding our State Representatives that an independent audit of our School facilities has already been done, and its recommendations clear.
 - c. Possible stumbling blocks for HES include:
 - i. High Schools vs. Elementary Schools: currently there is a debate regarding where the new slate of Schools should relieve pressure. Currently, the thinking is to build 8-12 elementary schools. Though there is a contingent that would rather see 2-4 new high schools.
 - ii. Potential Size of the School. While HES should be a shoe-in given its placement in the Cycle one, its unique site constriction and smaller size may argue against it given the want to make all the schools modular and repeatable to constrain costs.
 - iii. Currently there is not a large appetite to acquire new land for school builds (and little is available) so we would likely see another swing situation. Though a concerted effort would be made to make sure that was in a single, more local location.
 - iv. Nonetheless Hyattsville Elementary does currently stand a good chance of being incorporated into the new phase II ACF. Though it will take continued vigilance and advocacy to make sure it remains in the forefront of the discussion.
6. There being no more discussion, Chair Muth adjourned the meeting at 8:33 with a voice vote.