

DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD: UNAPPROVED MINUTES
BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING 1/25/2023

**Danville School Board
Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 6:00pm
Held over Zoom Teleconference - [Video Recording Available](#)**

School Directors Present: Clayton Cargill, Tim Sanborn, Dave Towle, Melissa Conly, Molly Gleason

School Administrators & Staff Present: Elementary Principal Sarah Welch (via Zoom), Secondary Principal Larry Fliegelman, Superintendent Mark Tucker, David Schilling (Danville Works Director), Shawn McNamara (Facilities Director)

Building Committee Members Present: Lance Horne, Kaity White, Eric Hewitt, Mary Beattie, Bruce Melendy, Rob Balivet, Alison Despathy, Rhiannon Esposito, Stacy Andre, John Blackmore

Public Present: Bucky Barany, Cyndee (no last name), Sean Cavanaugh (News 7)

Agenda

- 1. Call meeting to order:** Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
- 2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda - (Proposed additions or deletions/Possible agreement):**

Clayton recommended adding action on VT H.42 to the agenda, specifically the language in the warning for Town Meeting in March. Dave T moved to add the item to the agenda, seconded by Melissa, all in favor.

- 3. Discussion:**

- Added agenda item: Action on VT H.42:

Mark shared that some of the language in the warning for Town Meeting has been confusing for taxpayers and board members. The legislature had approved removing language for 2025, and H.42 states that certain language is not required in the 2023/24 voting cycle. He is recommending the highlighted language regarding the cost per pupil be removed from the warning this year.

MOTION: Dave moved to approve of striking the highlighted sentence in Article 4 of the warning for the 2023/24 Australian ballot, Tim seconded, all in favor.

Clayton will be in touch with board members about signing the warning.

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- Finalizing Committee Membership (*Consensus/Possible Action*)

Discussion on adding more members and when to close membership. Due to the meeting being held over Zoom, membership will be closed at the next in-person meeting. There was consensus among committee members to add Stacy Andre and John Blackmore to the committee.

- Top Programming Needs (*Discussion*)

Sarah and Larry shared a [report on program needs](#) at the school. Most significant needs are highlighted below:

1. There is a waitlist for preschool: There isn't enough space at the school to serve all of Danville's preschool aged children.
2. Elementary classrooms are not designed for education today where movement is incorporated and students need space for more individualized learning.
3. Not enough bathrooms: There are spaces where it is difficult to access a bathroom whether it be for a student who needs access physically or proximity for all students.
4. Classroom team locations: The 3 / 4 grade team is in three separate areas (the middle school wing and by the gym). The middle school and some high school classes are spread apart and don't allow for collaboration and communication.
5. Inadequate space:
 - a. Supplies and equipment are shifted from room-to-room based on the class that needs it
 - b. Many staff have offices that were former closets
 - c. The wing in the 1969 building has no windows which is not a healthy learning environment for students or adults.
 - d. The World Language classroom is too small for middle and high school classes
 - e. Gym: There is enough space for PE classes, but it doesn't allow for adaptive PE and other programming they could offer if they had more space. The gym is packed after school hours, and the town hall space is still being used; practices run up until 9:30pm in the school's gym.
 - f. Auditorium - The stage can't be used for any drama programs and seating is not ADA compliant; can't have performances with the entire school.

Ideas discussed:

- Events at the gym at the Town Hall
- Drama in the Town Hall
- Pope Library's community room: It has a kitchen and bathroom and has been used for CCSU and principal meetings.
- Use space at churches: Limitation - many are already being used during the week

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- North Danville School: Limitations - ADA and drainage issues
- Masonic building: Downstairs is rented and upstairs wouldn't be adequate
- Build an additional structure in the bus loading area that is adjacent to the kindergarten classrooms, a stand alone building possibly for preschool or elementary classrooms. Grades 3 / 4 could be together in a stand-alone building for preschool and K. Possible structures: framed construction, modular or temporary, building green, a structure that is less expensive and can be used as a flexible space to change with the school's needs. Limitations - Modular can be expensive; younger students need easy access to the larger building.
- Develop a short, middle and long term plan

Questions:

- Is the Pope's community room ADA compliant?
- What programs could be offsite?
- Would insurance be an issue offsite? (might not be an issue, only liability coverage)
- Do the offsite options address program needs?
- What are the rules and regulations for bathrooms?
- What size building could fit in the bus loading area? Would it block windows in the existing building?
- What kind of a building could be built without a design from an architect?
- Enrollment projections - Is the school always going to be growing or will it reach a place when it is not? Sarah stated projected numbers for preschool show the school is growing.
- How immediate are the needs? Moving air is the most pressing need and next would be compliance.
- What is the budget for the project?
- How does an addition affect transportation?
- Could the preschool go into the space at the Pope Library? Or OT/PT/Speech and Adaptive PE? The Pope's community center is smaller than the preschool classrooms and state regulations are stringent for preschool.
- What are the needs and what needs to go into community spaces to support school services? Is there funding available? Funding available for special education accommodations typically have to be used for only that purpose. For instance, the lift in the building. It is used by a wide variety of people and there were limitations with funding options because of that.
- Could the cafeteria be used for more programming? Cafeteria and library are already being used for study halls and work with students (interventionists for instance)

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- Would another cafeteria add space for other uses too? A multipurpose cafeteria could be used as a second PE space and also used after school.
- What about parking if the addition is placed in the bus loading zone? Do more spaces need to be added?
- Does the roof have to be replaced for the air handlers? Shawn stated that it doesn't.

Clarification and Further Discussion:

- Larry and Sarah clarified that being “far apart” in the school refers to grades and teams being separated in the building and the impact on learning and collaboration. They added that close proximity allows for collaboration and connectedness. A modern middle school is built around a team concept, and it is cohesive and allows for communication. Teachers can meet in the hallway, and it reduces the amount of time students spend moving to and from classes. The two English teachers are separated, and they can't work together. The 3 / 4 grades have to walk from one class to another, and it takes up time; instructional time is lost.
- Clarification on “teaming” and “centers,” language used in the report. Sarah shared that in an elementary classroom, there is typically an area for morning meeting/a welcoming space, and a place they go back to for instructions. There are different areas to meet the needs of all the students in the classroom; one group might be getting direct instruction from a teacher, others could be working independently on reading and there's an area for phonics and interactive play materials. This model also encourages social interaction. Teaming is vital within an elementary school so teachers can work and plan together. The delivery for each teacher might be different but content and curriculum are the same. Larry added that research on middle school shows that students need teachers who understand them as a whole, and communication within teams of teachers and staff allow them to understand what students need. Students' brains are designed to make connections and this makes learning easier for more kids.
- Adaptive PE is physical education for kids who physically can't participate in regular PE classes and may need other services.
- Bathrooms: Sarah shared that preschool classes have to have bathrooms in each classroom. The ones in preschool classes are not ADA compliant. Larry added only three bathrooms in the school are single use and grades 7 / 8 share a bathroom with the high school.
- History of the project: The board had initially discussed classrooms on the Route 2 side, and Truexcullins came in and they began discussions about the future of the school.

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- Other schools: BFA Fairfax approved a \$36M project for nine classrooms, a renovated science building and bringing the school up to code
 - Concerns about haphazard additions that create more problems down the road
 - There is no funding available for construction for spaces
 - Students with mobility needs wouldn't be able to be outside the building. It's more productive to think of what spaces are available and which students can travel to separate spaces
- Building Options (*Discussion /maybe breakout groups*)
 - Discussed an initial needs assessment (how many more classrooms are needed, square footage, size of an additional building); code regulations and possible solutions such as utiliduct and bentonite clay. Utiliduct could be used for pipes and sprinklers without breaking open the walls, an enclosure for plumbing and electrical to keep in place and construct new systems. Would help to bring the building up to code and cost less.
 - Foundation problems and the new cracking issues in the gym, which seem to be most urgent: possible solution is Bentalite which expands and strengthens. There are dozens of cracks in the foundation. Rob shared in the chat: "injected bentonite clay is often used structurally if there is settlement involving voids or geological degradation. Anchorage General Mail Facility used it successfully."
- Grants (*Discussion*)
 - Mark is working on a concept letter for all schools in the CCSU for a grant from the US Department of Energy that might cover costs of lighting and air exchange.
 - Lance shared a federal omnibus appropriations bill with funding opportunities, and there was discussion on Title 1 funding and other funding that is funneled through the state. Link is [here](#). Stacy Andre stated in the chat that she will research which Vermont agencies could have granting opportunities using this funding.
- Action Items:
 - Shawn, Larry and Sarah will send Molly the reports on programming and facility needs to go on the project site.
 - Molly will send out minutes and update the project site with program and facility needs
 - Shawn will get a list of space needs for the building
 - Stacy will research VT agencies for the omnibus appropriations bill

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- Scheduling of Ongoing Meetings / Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be on February 8, 2023, at 6pm. It will be held in the middle school math room (room 501).

4. Public Input - None

5. Future Agenda Items:

- Breakout groups to discuss building options
- Finalize committee membership

6. Adjourn:

MOTION: Melissa moved to adjourn at 7:52pm, Dave T seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, January 27, 2023